Università di Trieste
Corso di Laurea in Geologia

Anno accademico 2020 - 2021

Geologia Marina

Modulo 6 – ASPETTI ECONOMICI E SOCIALI

Modulo 6.3 Confinamento geologico della CO_2

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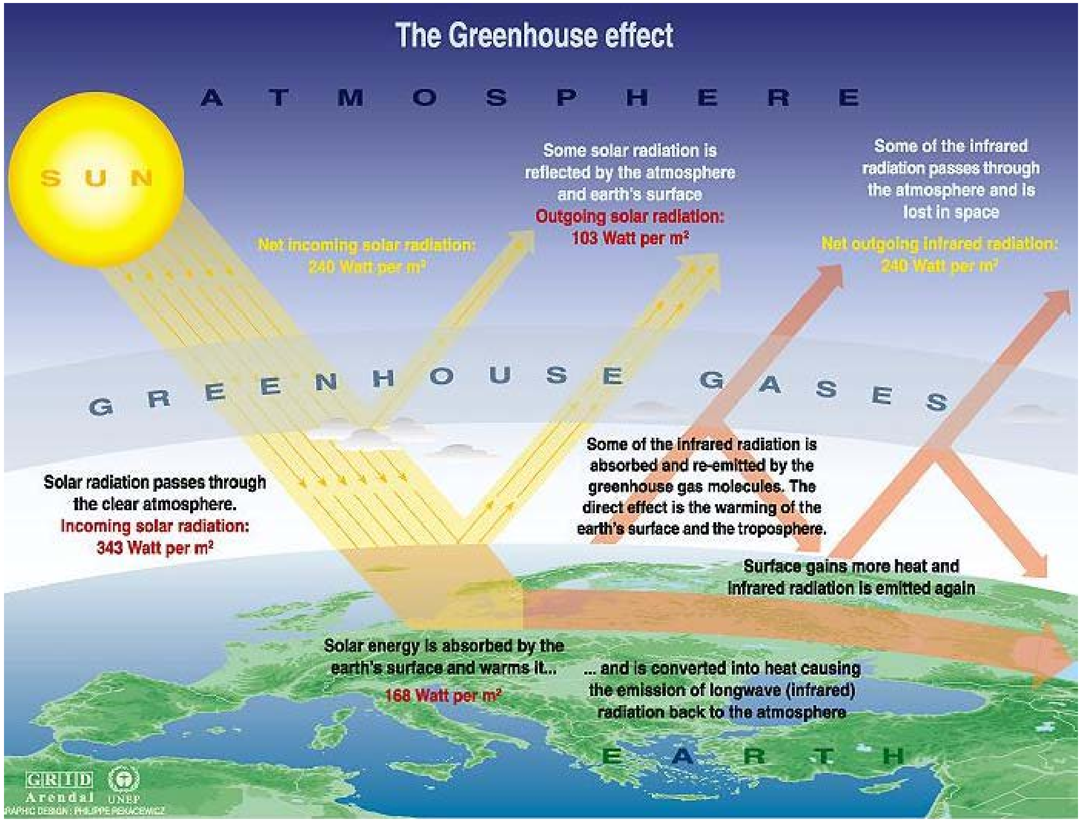
Global warming and climate change are terms for the observed century-scale rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system and its related effects.

GREENHOUSE GASES

This process consists of the global warming due to the emission of gas (CO_2, water steam, methane…) in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases allow sunlight to pass through the atmosphere while obstructing the passage to the space of the infrared radiation from the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere (the heat re-issued); in practice they behave like the glass of a greenhouse and help to regulate and maintain the temperature of the earth with today.

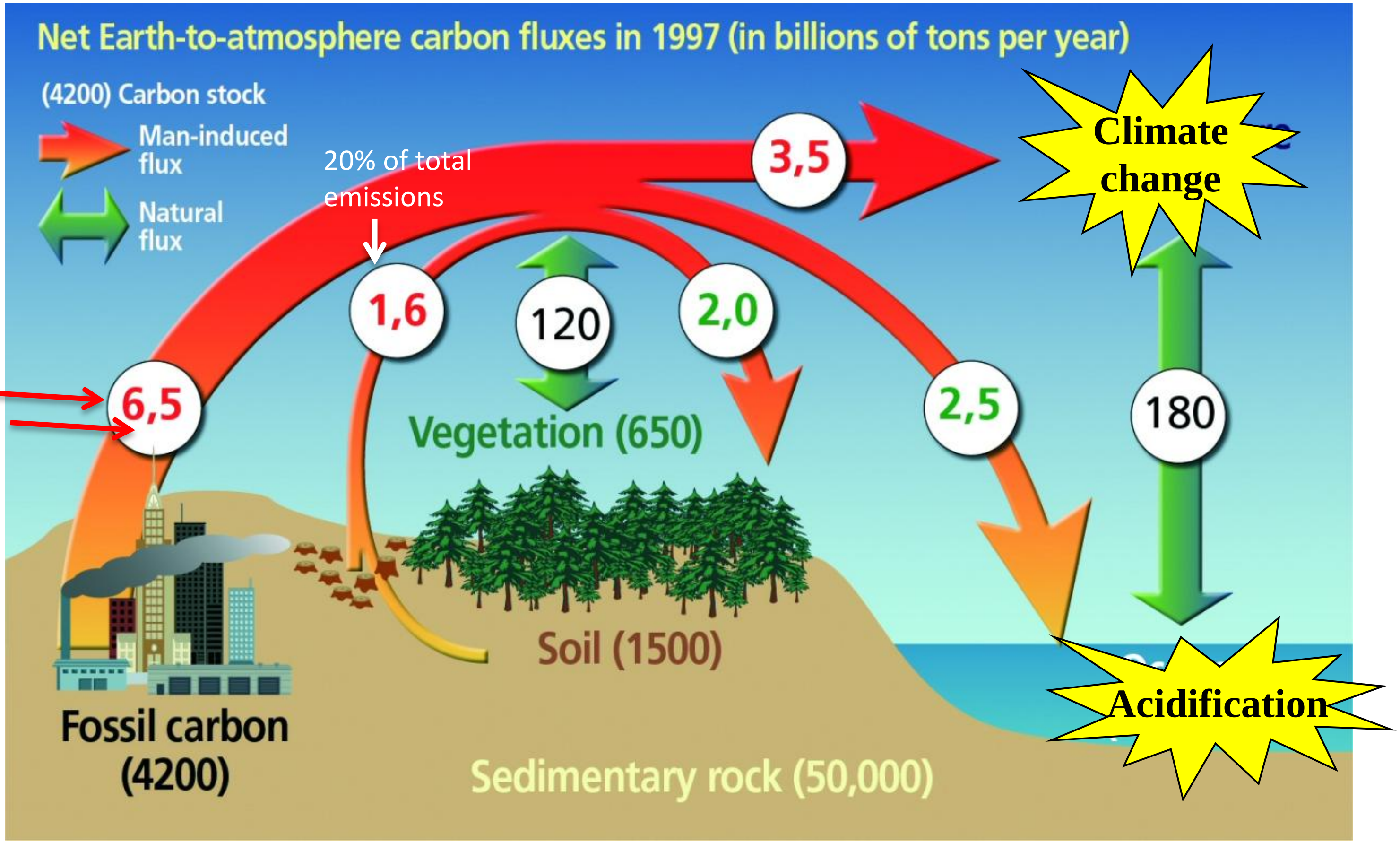


This is a natural process and allows that the temperature of the Earth be 33°C higher than what it would be without the presence of the gases.

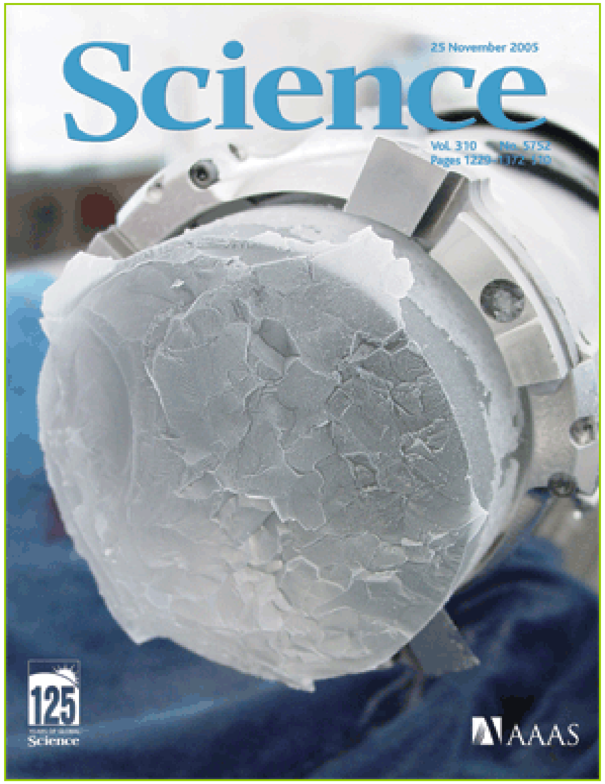
CO_2 exchange between Earth and Atmosphere (Billiontons/years of Carbon)

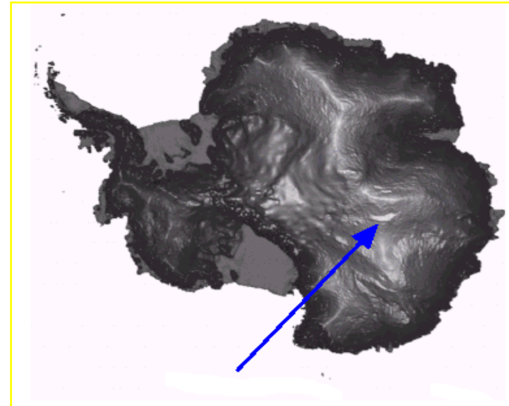
Total amount of emitted CO_2 : 30 billion tons /year or 8.1 billiontons/years of carbon

80% of total emissions



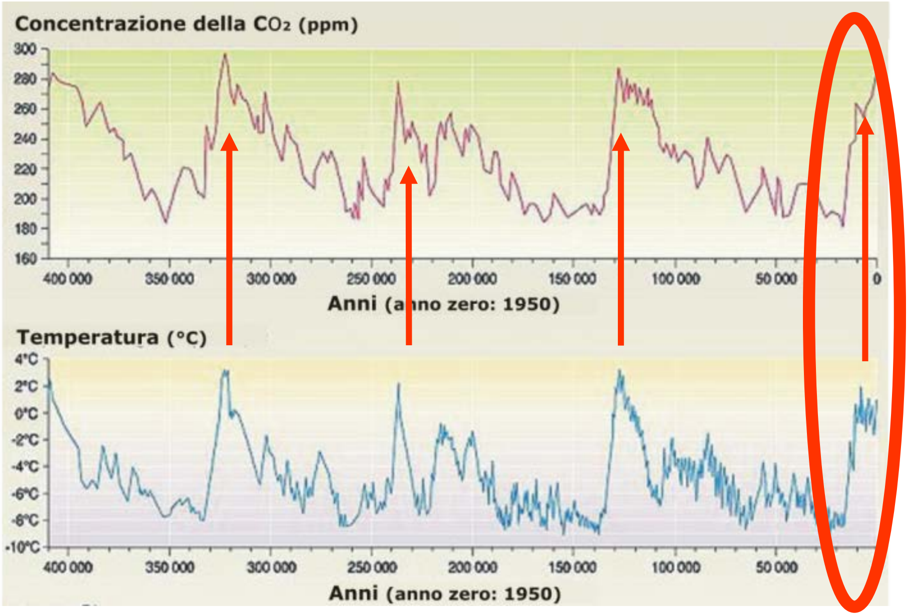
World emissions of CO_2 from the usage of fossil fuels:
6.5 Gt C/y (o 24 Gt CO_2/a)





Ice cores from Antarctica have allowed to reconstruct the temperature trend and the CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere for the the last 400.000

GLOBAL WARMING



Correlation between temperature increase and concentration of CO_2 in the atmosphere over the last 400,000 years (drilling of ice in Antarctica)

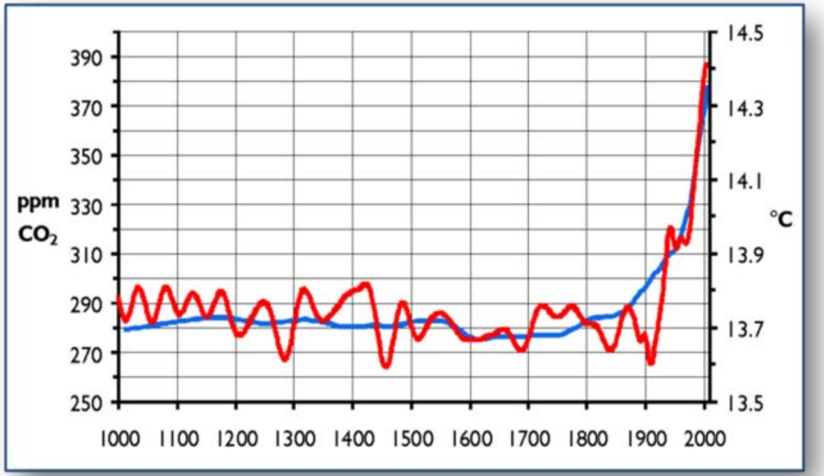
CO_2concentration in the atmosphere is increased by circa ~**40%** from 1750 (Rivoluzione Industriale; IPCC, 2014)

Maximun concentration of CO_2 (last 400.000 years)

300 ppm

IN 2005:

381 ppm



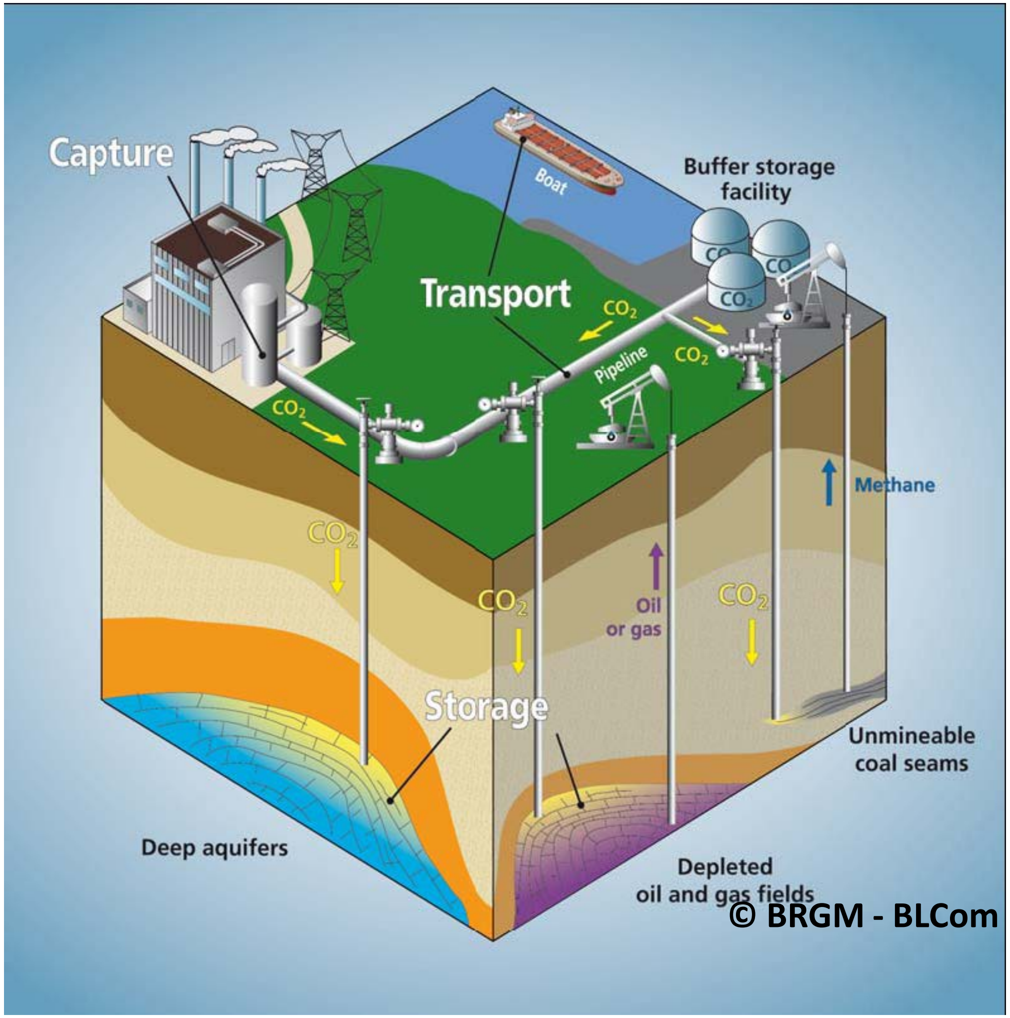
Global variation of the temperature (red) and the CO_2 present in the atmosphere (blu) in the last 1000 years.

CO_2 GEOLOGICAL STORAGE
CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

.. one of the options to reduce the global CO_2 emissions by 2050

Three main phases:

1. Capture
2. Transport
3. Storage

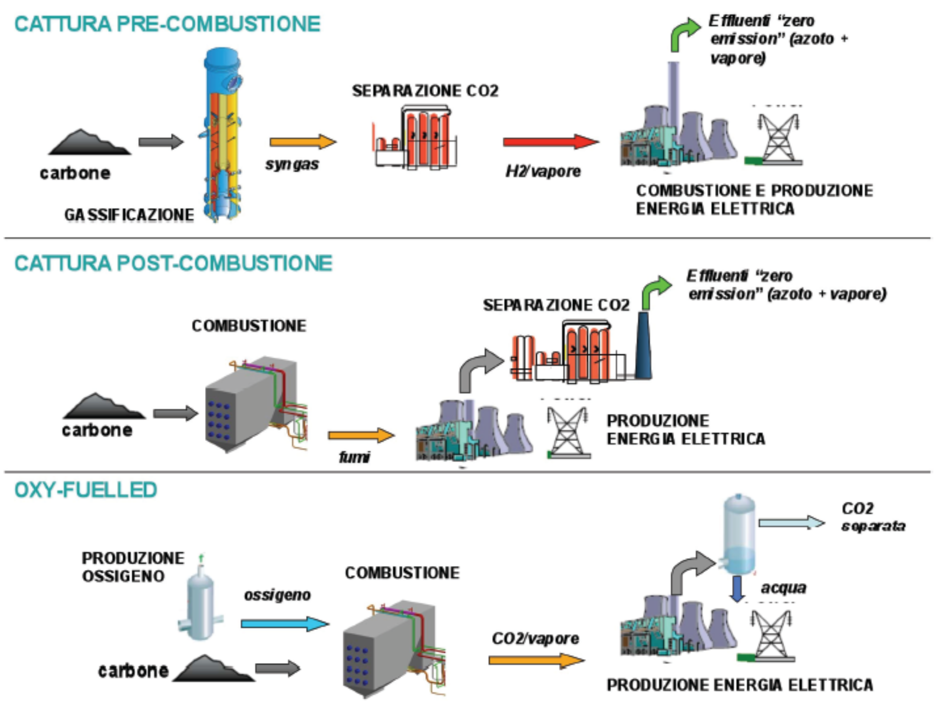


MAIN CO_2 EMITTORS

The main sources of CO_2 emissions consist of the **BIG STATIONARY SOURCES**:

- ❑ FOSSIL FUEL POWER PLANTS
- ❑ INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF IRON, STEEL, CEMENT
- ❑ CHEMICALS REFINERIES

CAPTURE PROCESSES



- **PRE- COMBUSTION:** the fuel (coal, gas) is first treated by transforming it into syngas (gas di sintesi) and subsequently separating it in two gas flows: one with a high concentration of hydrogen for the combustion (or other uses) and CO2.
- **POST- COMBUSTION:** separation of CO_2 from flue gases at the end of the cycle; it does not need substantial modification to the power plant.
- **OXYGEN COMBUSTION:** it is a very studied technology for the coal, which is placed in the boiler in powdered form, not burned with air but with oxygen (or very enriched air). In this way the amount of produced CO2 in the flue gases is higher and easier to capture.

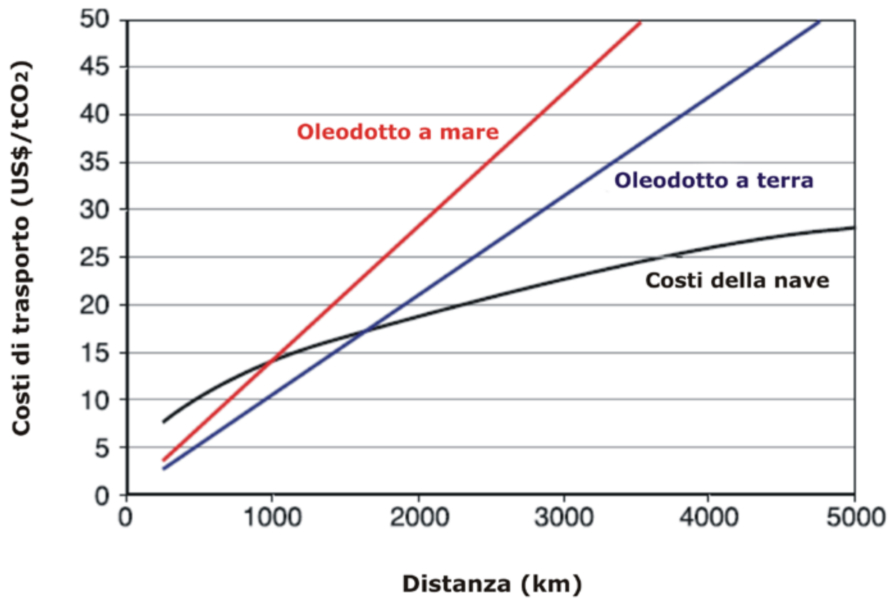
TRANSPORT OF CO_2

La CO_2 can be transported, both onland and offshore, in three phases:

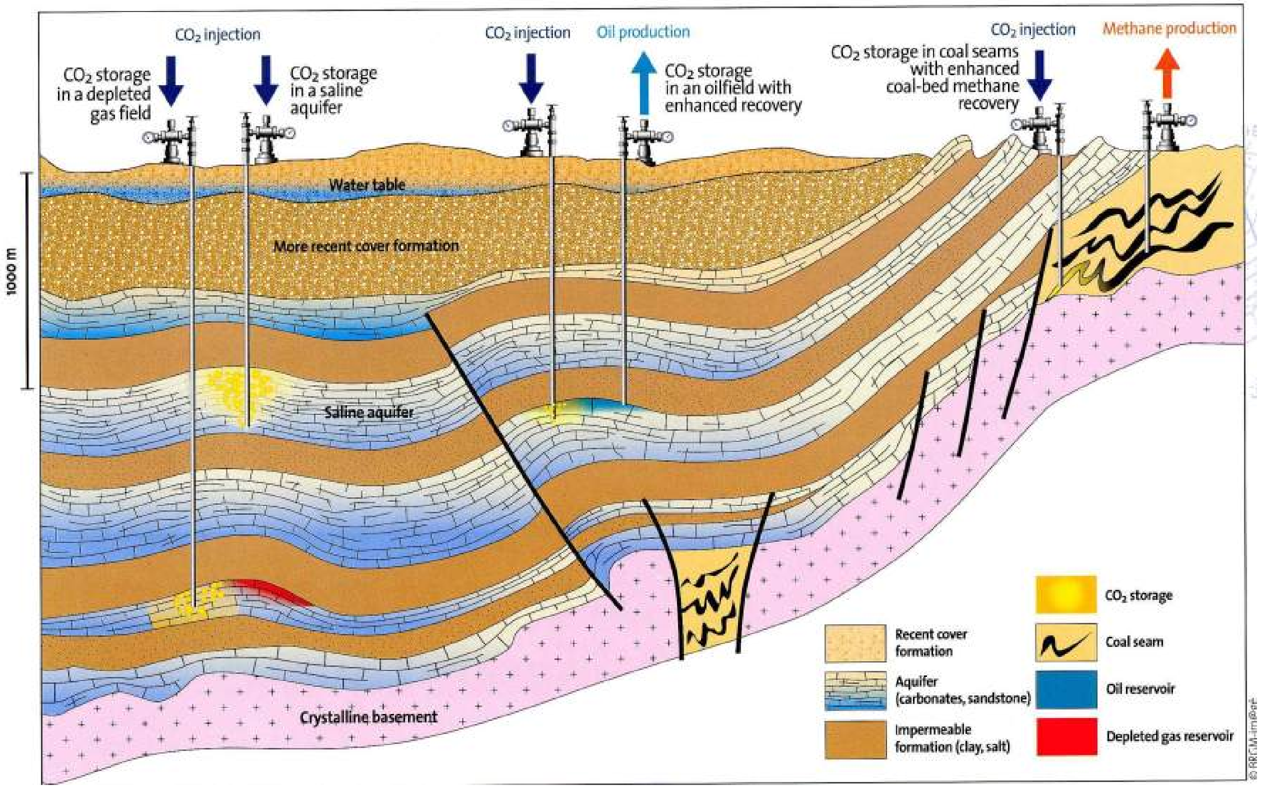
GAS **LIQUID** **SOLID**

Tanks, pipelines and ships

Not economically convenient



STORAGE OPTIONS



Existing Reservoir

- Saline aquifers
- Oil and gas filed depleted
- Coal seams

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SUITABLE SITES FOR CO_2 STORAGE

Depth : between 800 (to allow the CO_2 supercritical stage) and 2000-3000 m

Characteristics of the reservoir: good porosity e permeability

Caprock: presence of a sealing geological formation

Distance: within a radius of 200 km from the source of emission of CO_2

Heat flow: the heat flow does not have to be high, in order not to alter the conditions of stability of CO_2

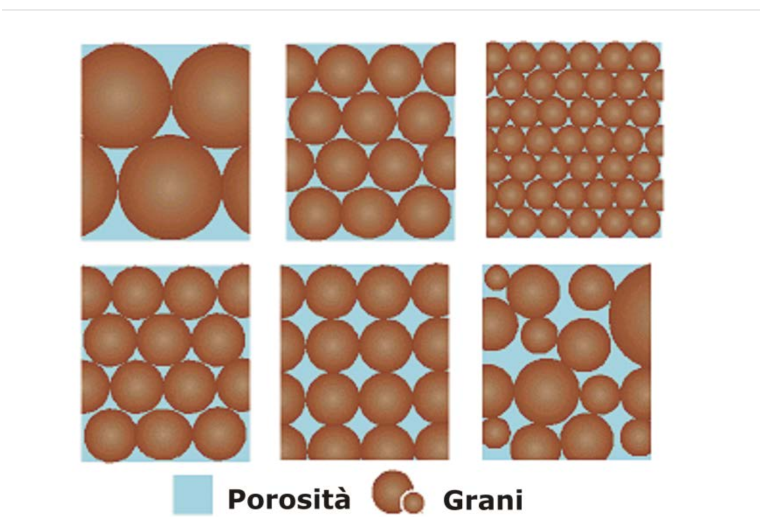
Tectonic setting/seismicity: the area must be stable to ensure the structural conditions for storage

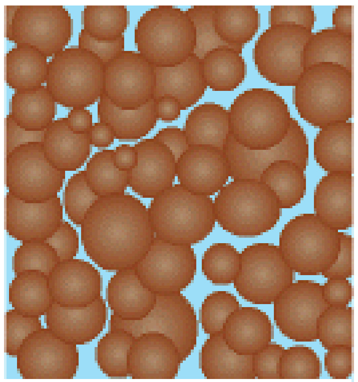
CO_2 STORAGE

For the purposes of CO_2 storage, the rock that serves as a reservoir must meet the following requirements ***:***

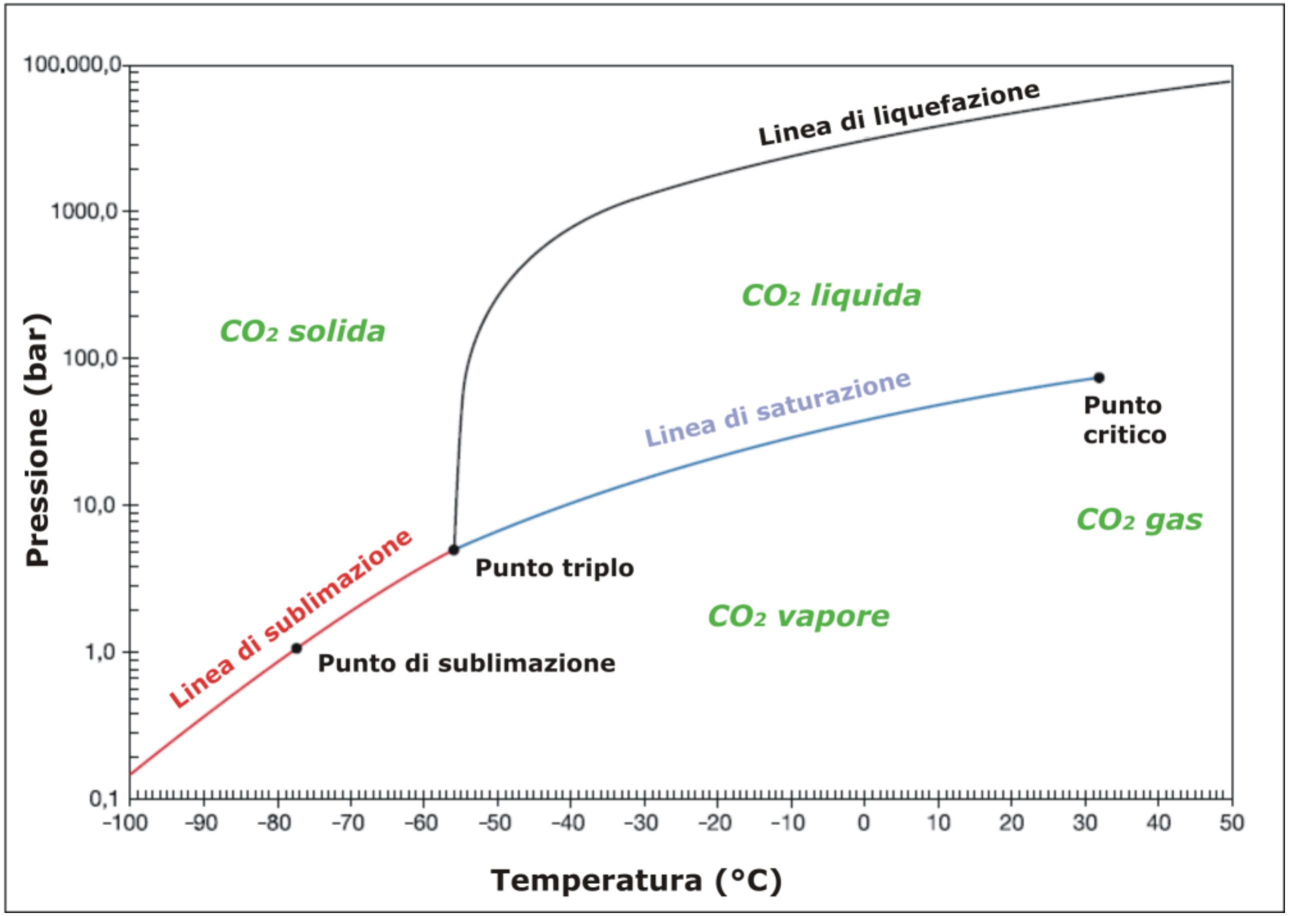
- **they must be at a DEPTH between 800 (so that the CO_2 remains in conditions of supercritical state) and 1500 m;**

- **they must have a certain porosity and permeability;**





CO_2 PHASE: “supercritical state”



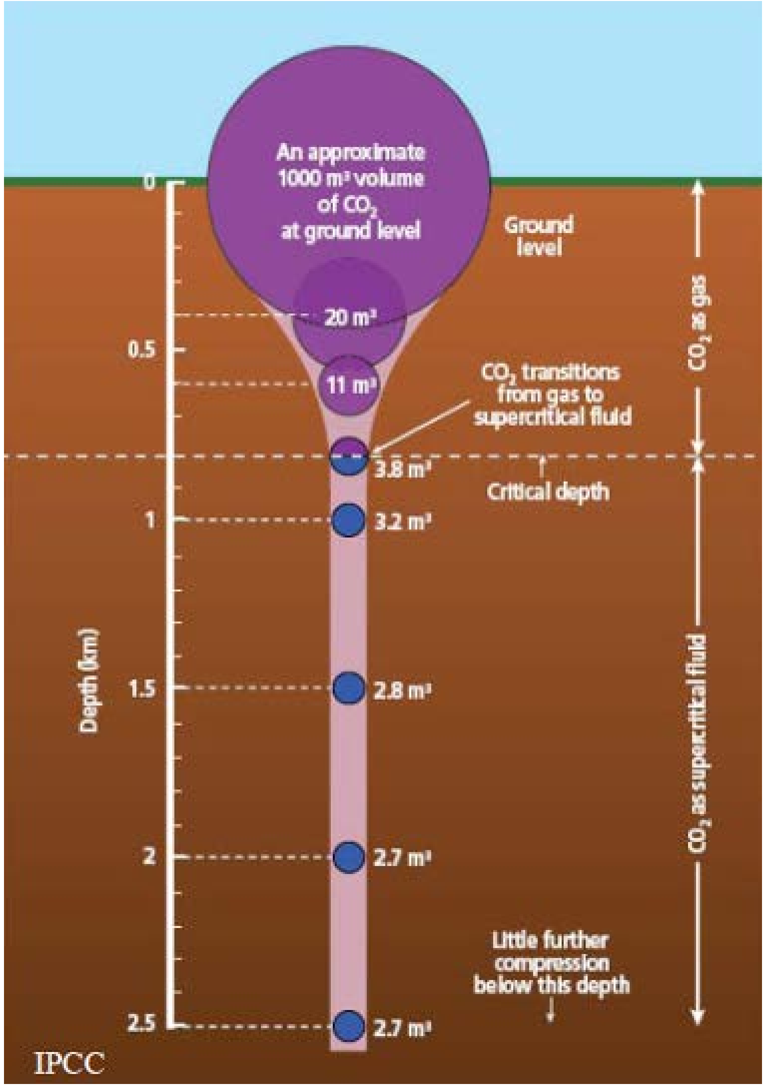
- **T>31.1° C**
- **P>73.9 bar**

…CO_2 in supercritical state is liquid or gas?

ANSWER:

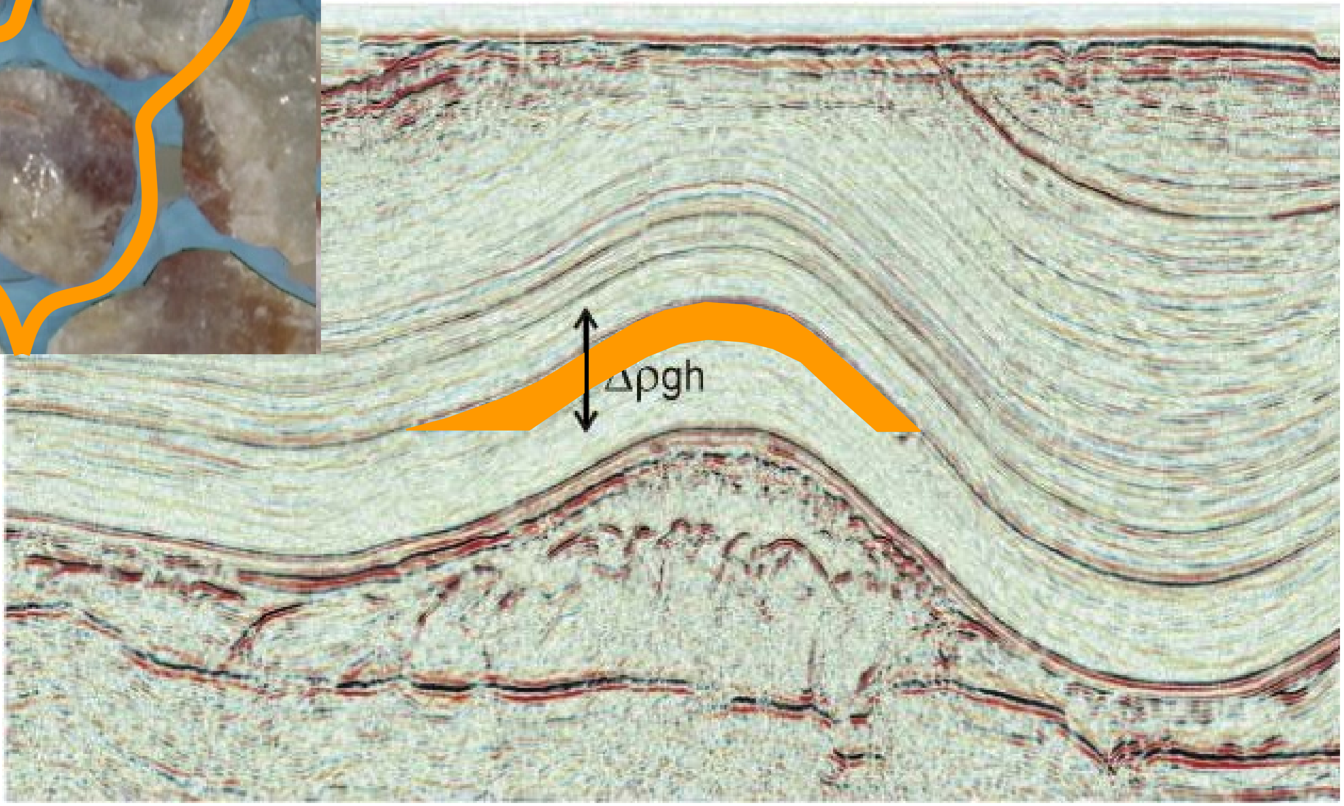
- density similar to liquid
- viscosity similar to gas

T=100°C, P=280bar (2800m)	density (kg/m3)	Viscosity (cP)
CO_2 supercritic	615	0.05
water	804	0.16
gas (methan)	150	0.02

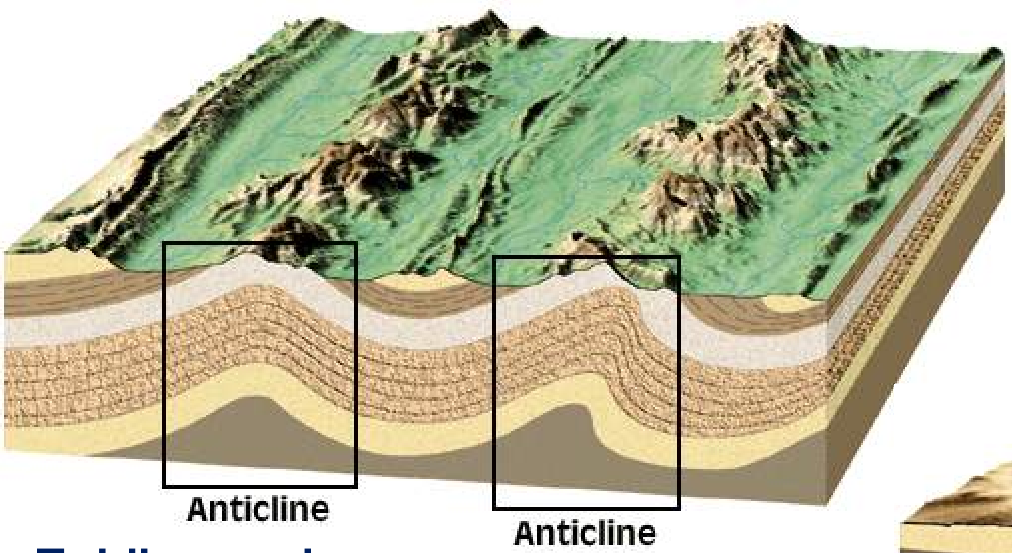


The CO_2 at supercritical conditions tends to rise ...

ESSENTIAL PRESENCE OF SEALING ROCK FORMATIONS (CAPROCK)

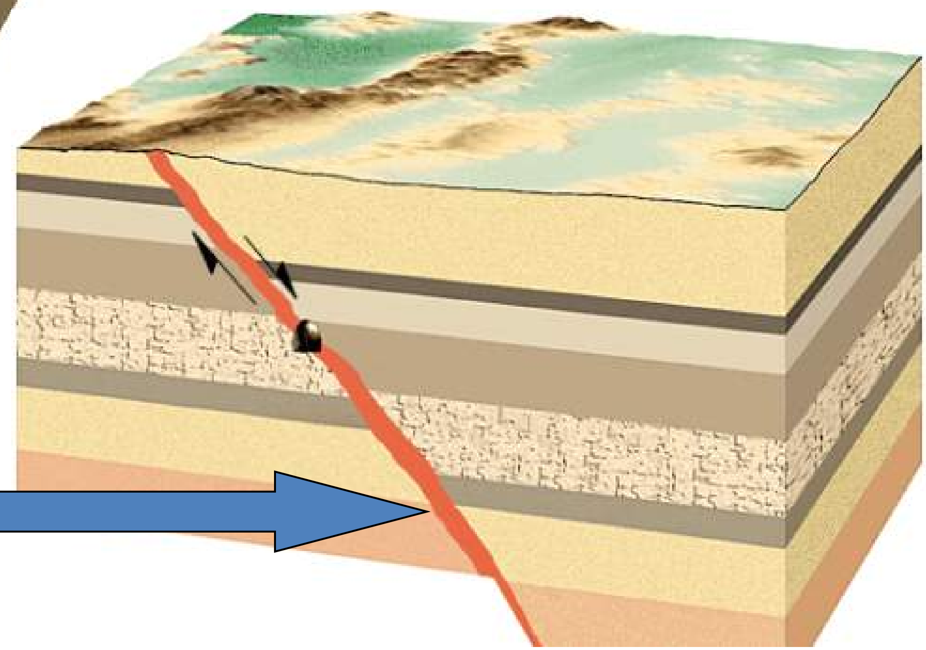


STRUCTURAL TRAPS



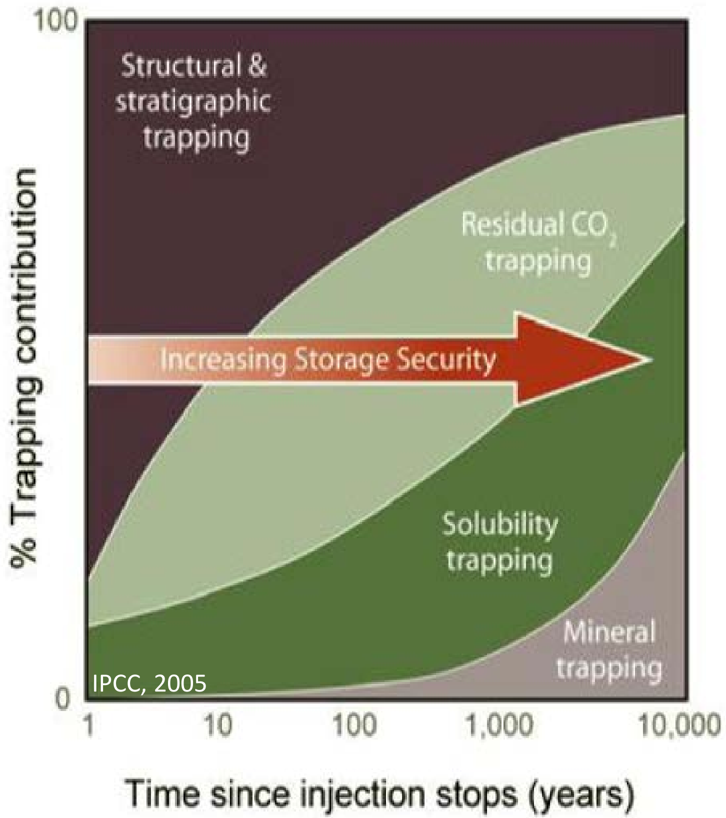
Folding and anticlines

Faults and unconformities



Fault consists of different material

Trapping mechanisms



- **Structural trapping:** the CO_2 is lighter than the salt water present in the interstices of the rock and it tends to rise upward and trapped by the impermeable rocks (caprock)
- **Hydrodynamic trapping**, where CO_2 is injected into supercritical conditions at depths> 800 m and it moves the present salt water
- **Dissolution trapping:** once injected CO_2 starts to dissolve in salt water. The water now becomes heavier and tends to drop. This mechanisms put in contact water with dissolved CO2 with fresh water, promoting additional dissolution. After 10 years: 15% of injected CO_2 is dissolved; after 10.000 years 95% of CO_2 is dissolved.
- **Mineral trapping** where CO_2 reacts with some minerals in the aquifer to form crystalline carbonates

KEY DATA FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF A RESERVOIR-CAPROCK SYSTEM

Wellbore data

- Logs (Sonic, Gamma Ray)
- Porosity e permeability of reservoir e caprock rock formations
- Temperature and pressure at reservoir depth

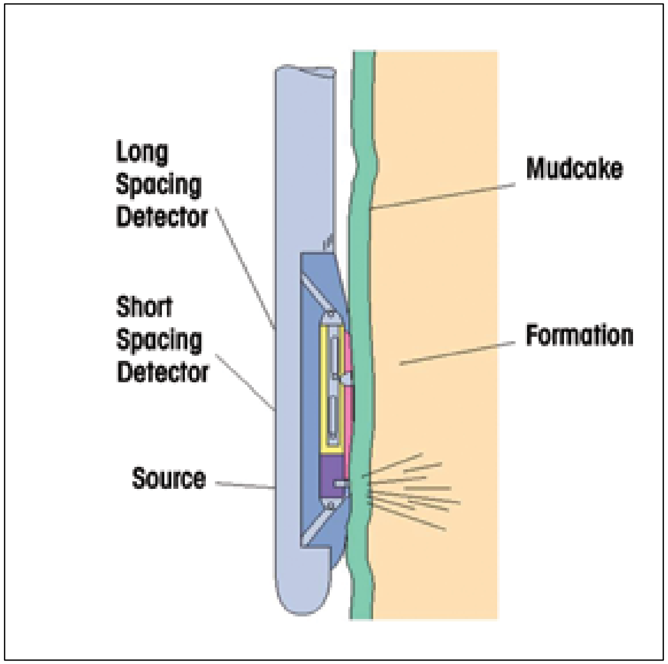


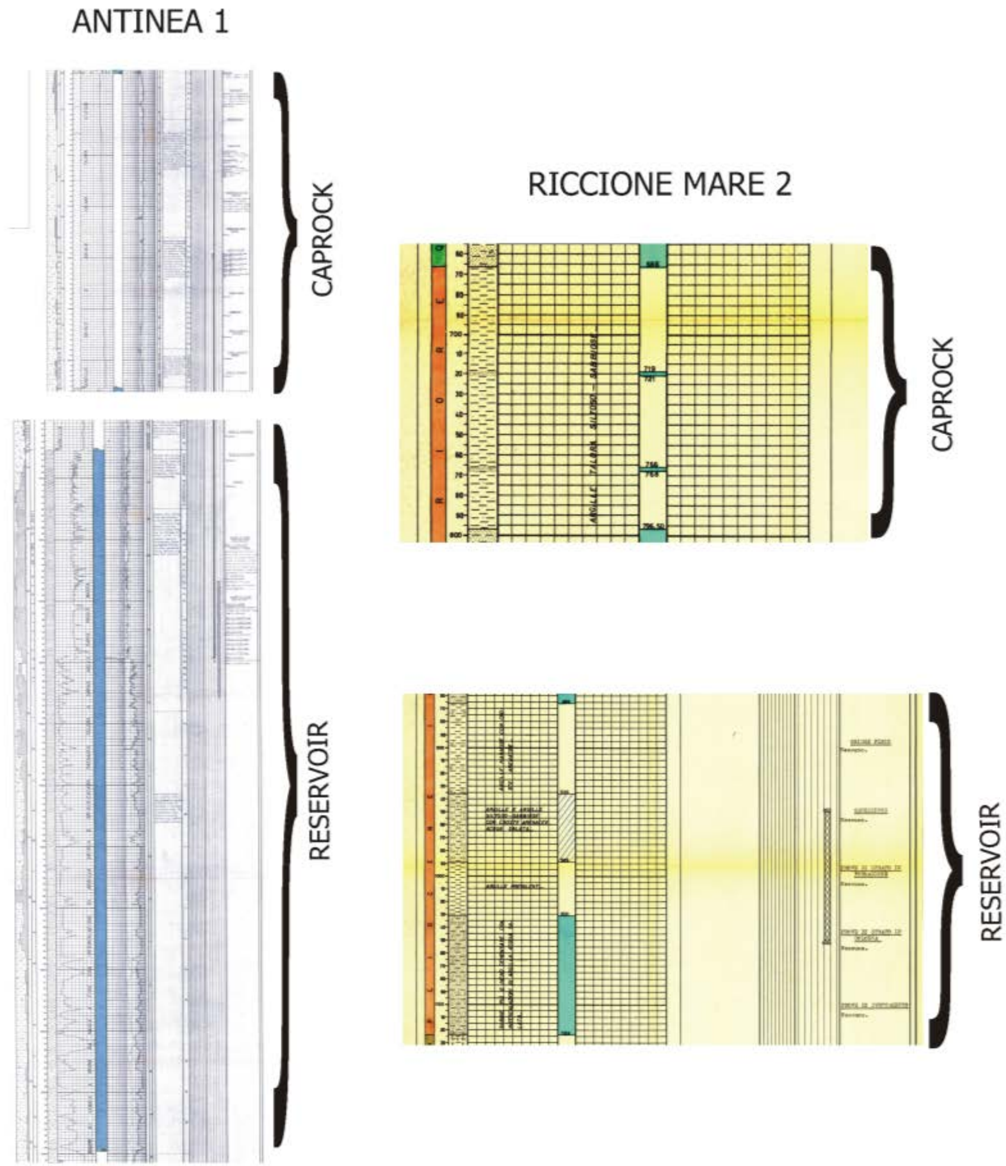
Image of a logging tool in a hole

Multichannel seismic data

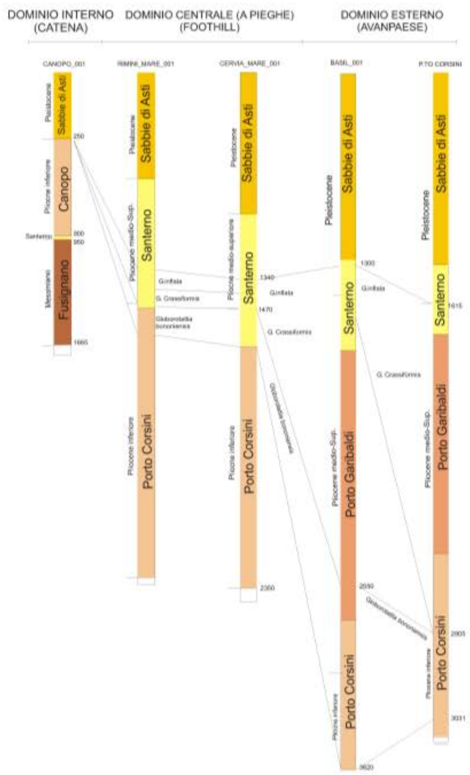
2D - regional scale

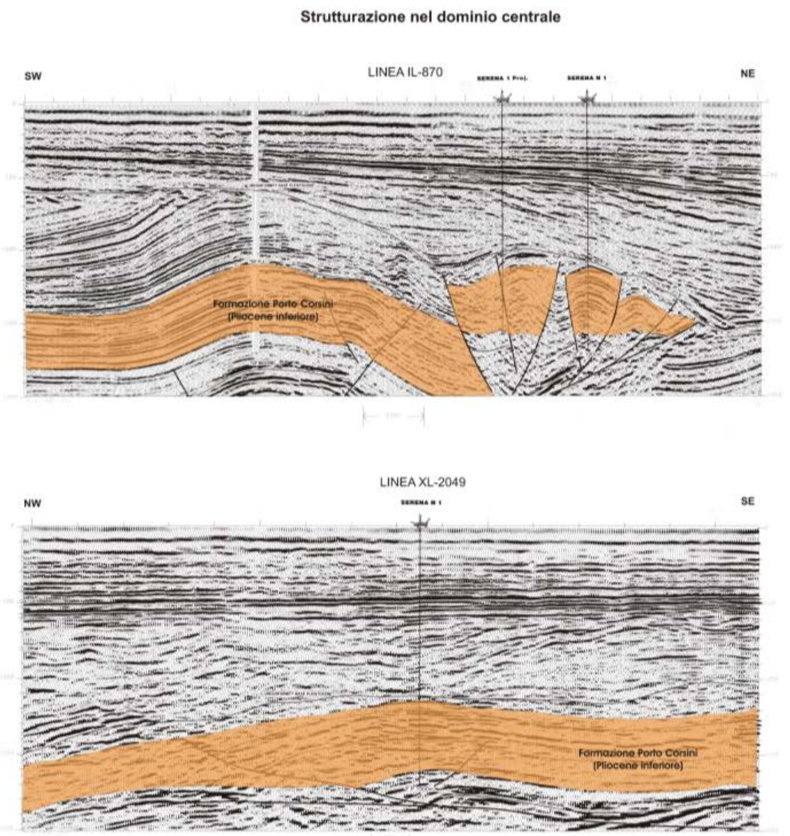
3D - site scale

CHARACTERIZATION RESERVOIR-CAPROCK: WELL DATA analysis



CHARACTERIZATION RESERVOIR-CAPROCK: SEISMIC DATA ANALYSIS





Main characteristics of a potential site for CO_2 storage

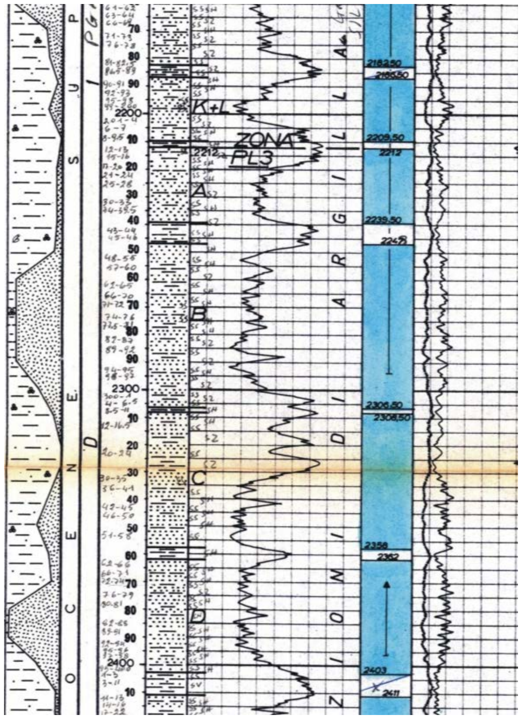
- *Capacity*, to contain the amount of CO_2 to be stored; key parameter: **porosity**
- *Injectivity*, to inject the CO_2 a certain rate of injection; key parameter: **permeability of reservoir**
- *Containment*, to avoid CO_2 leakage; key parameter: **permeability of caprock**

CCS Project
Main steps

1. Identification of the potential storage site
2. Modelling of CO_2 injection
3. Monitoring (pre-, during and post-injection)
4. Risk evaluation and remediation plan

Data analysis

Geophysical log analysis



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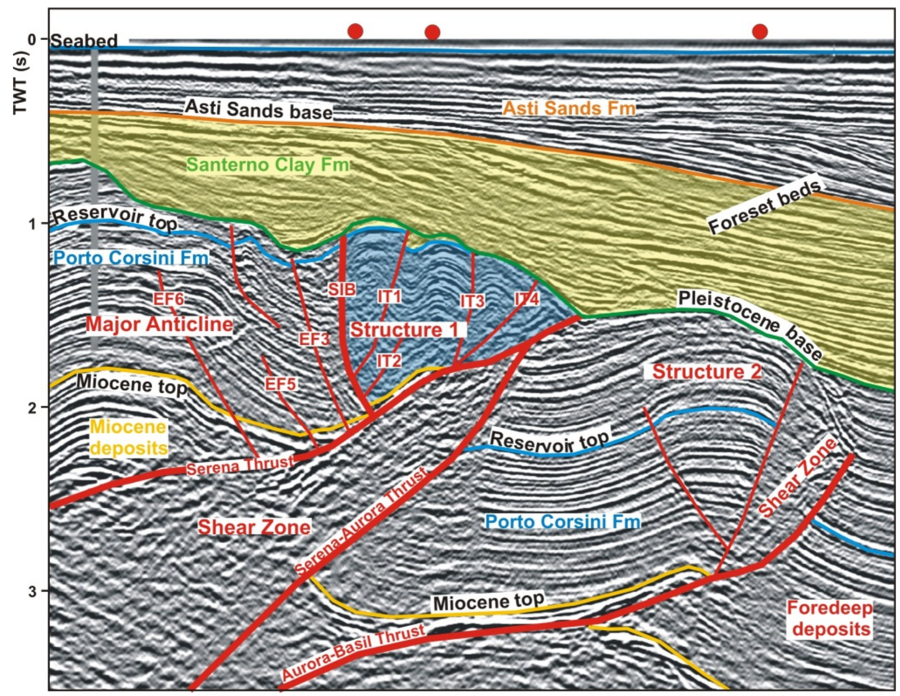
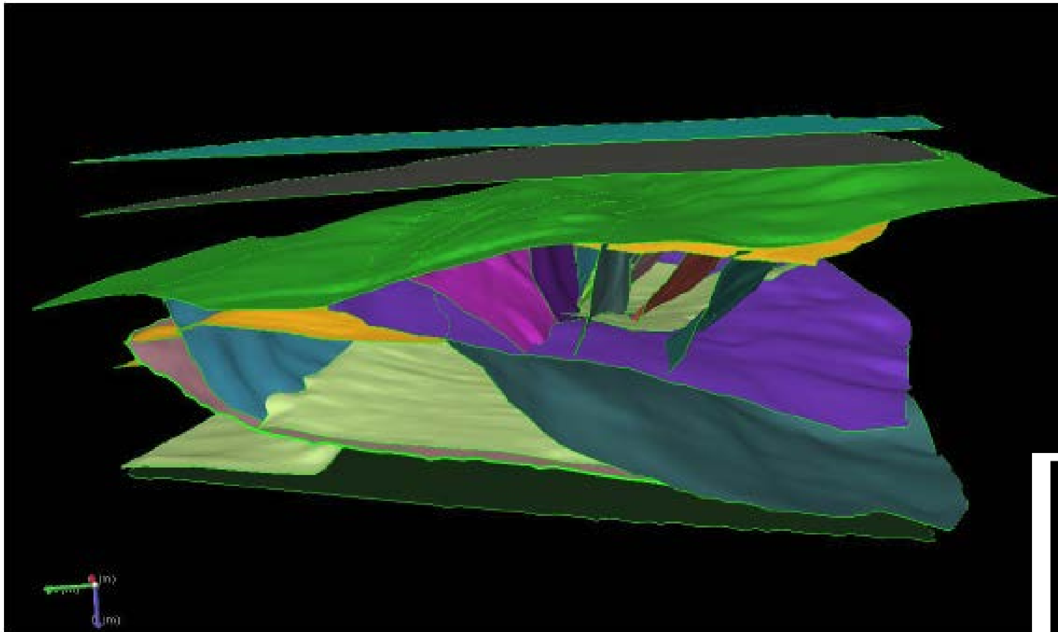
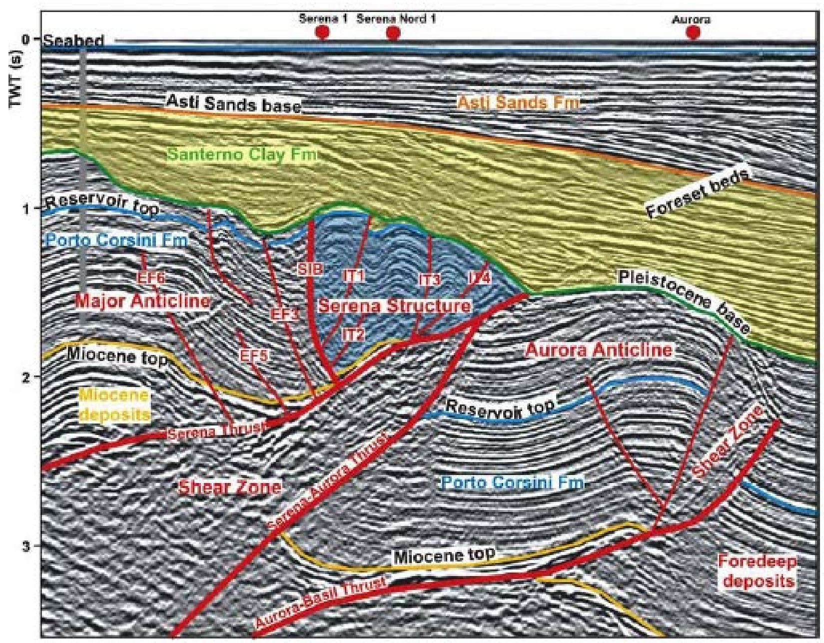
Seismostratigraphic and structural interpretation of multichannel seismic profiles

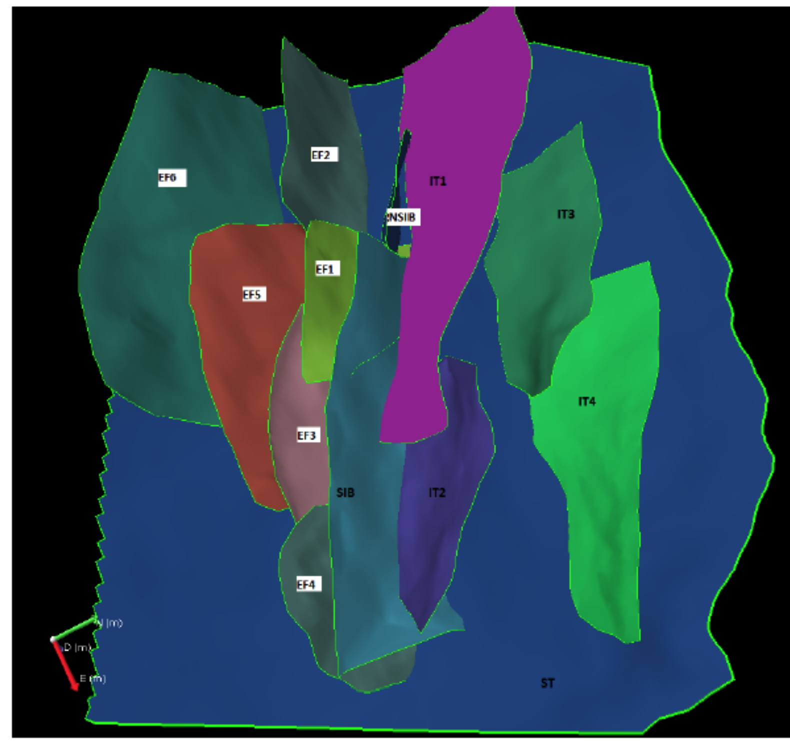


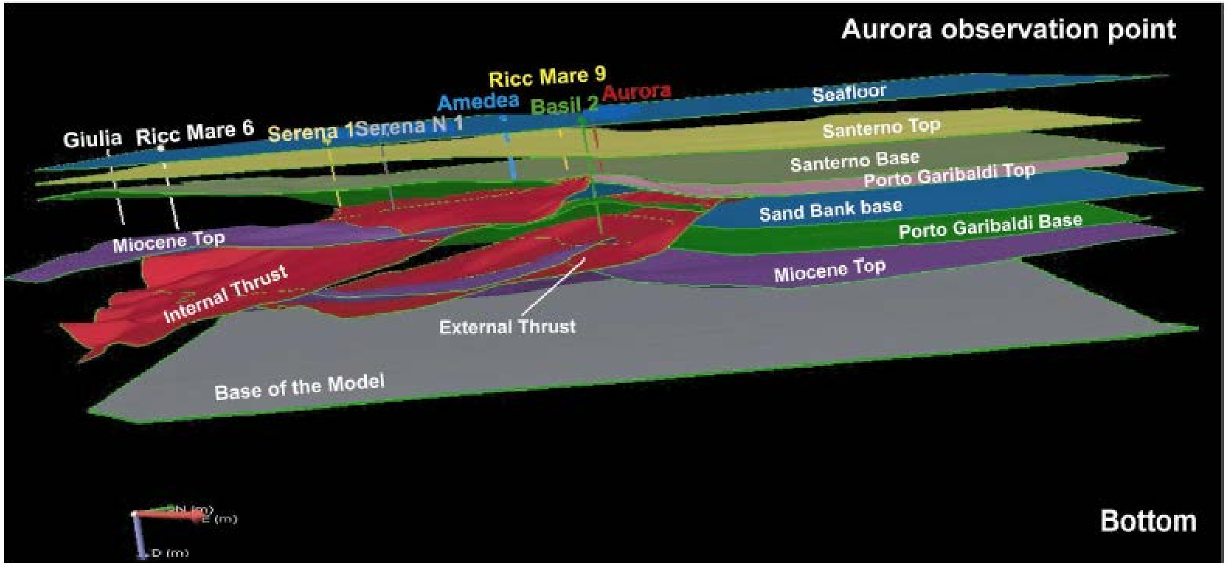
Geological modeling

Example of 3D geological model



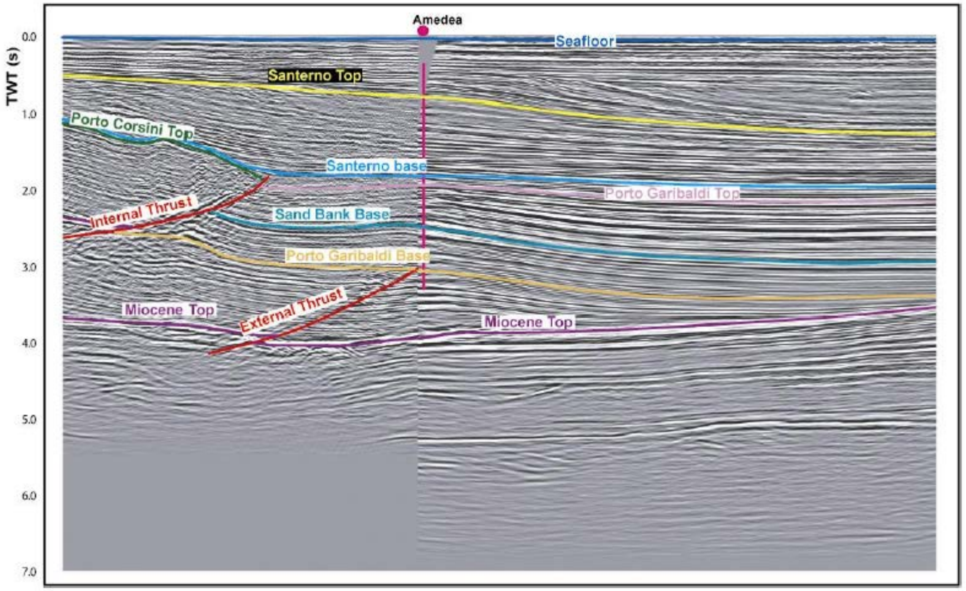


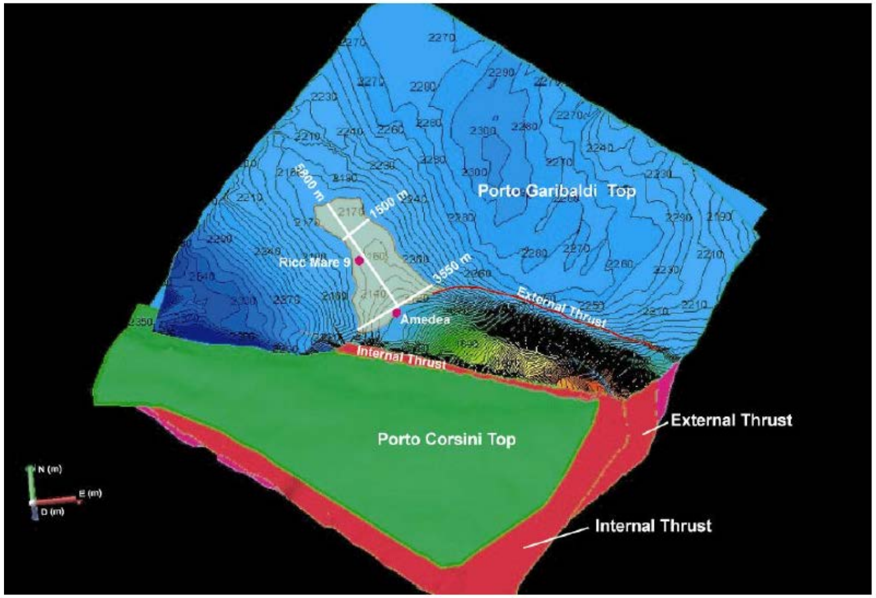




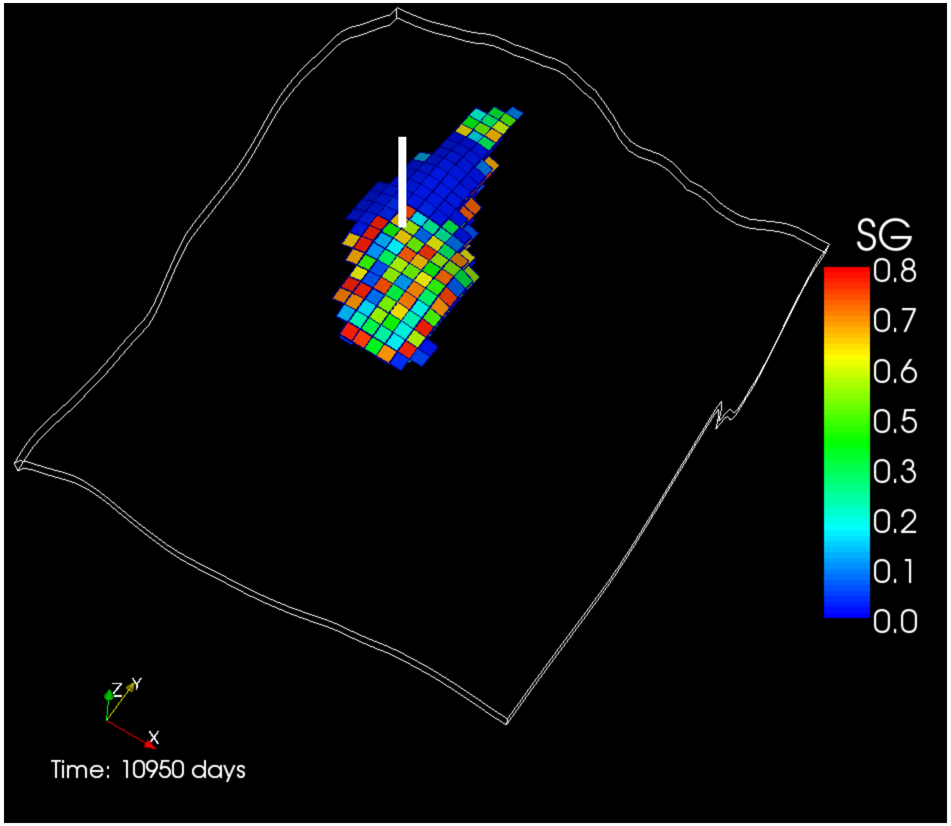
Geological modeling

Example of 3D geological model

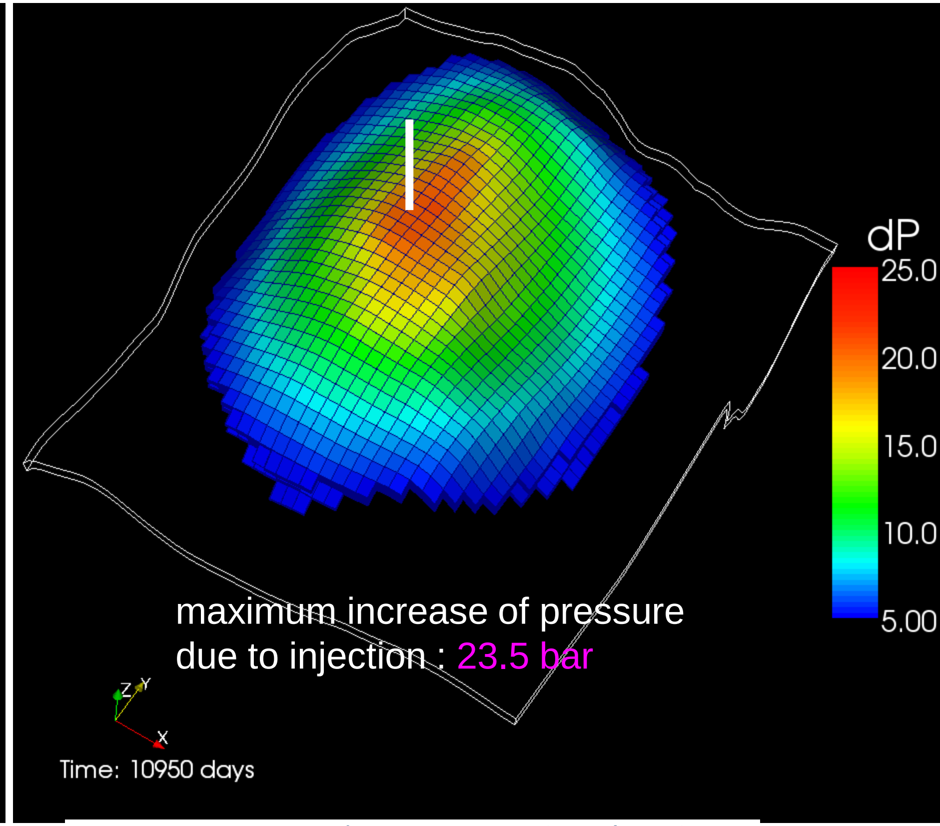




Modeling of CO_2 Injection
ONE WELL located on top of the anticline



Free CO_2 saturation



Pressure increase (>5bar) from static conditions

Potential areas suitable for CO_2 geological storage in siliciclastic formations

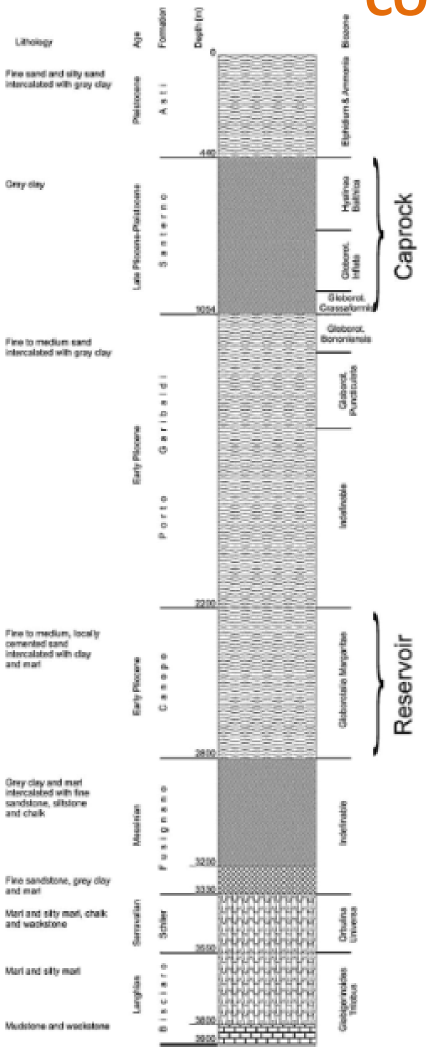
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF THE STORAGE CAPACITY: ~ 12 Gt

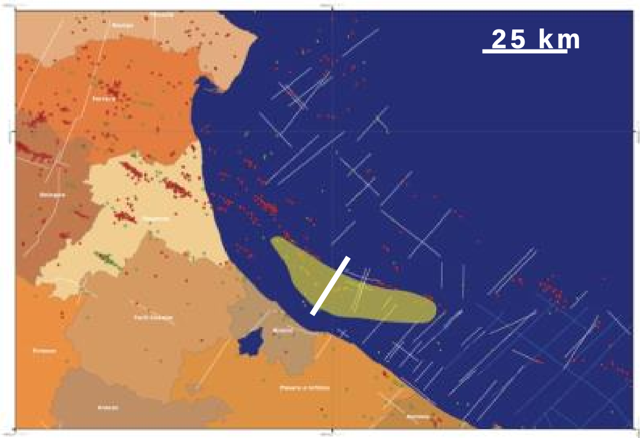
Storage of Italy's annual CO_2 emissions for the next 50 years

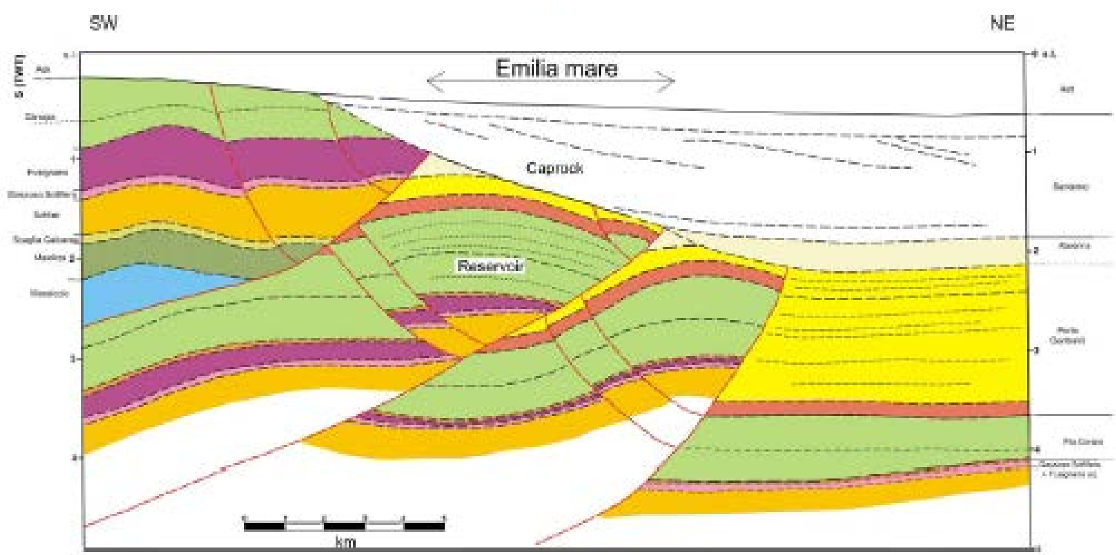
Donda et al., 2011

Example of a potential area suitable for CO_2 geological storage in a terrigenous formation

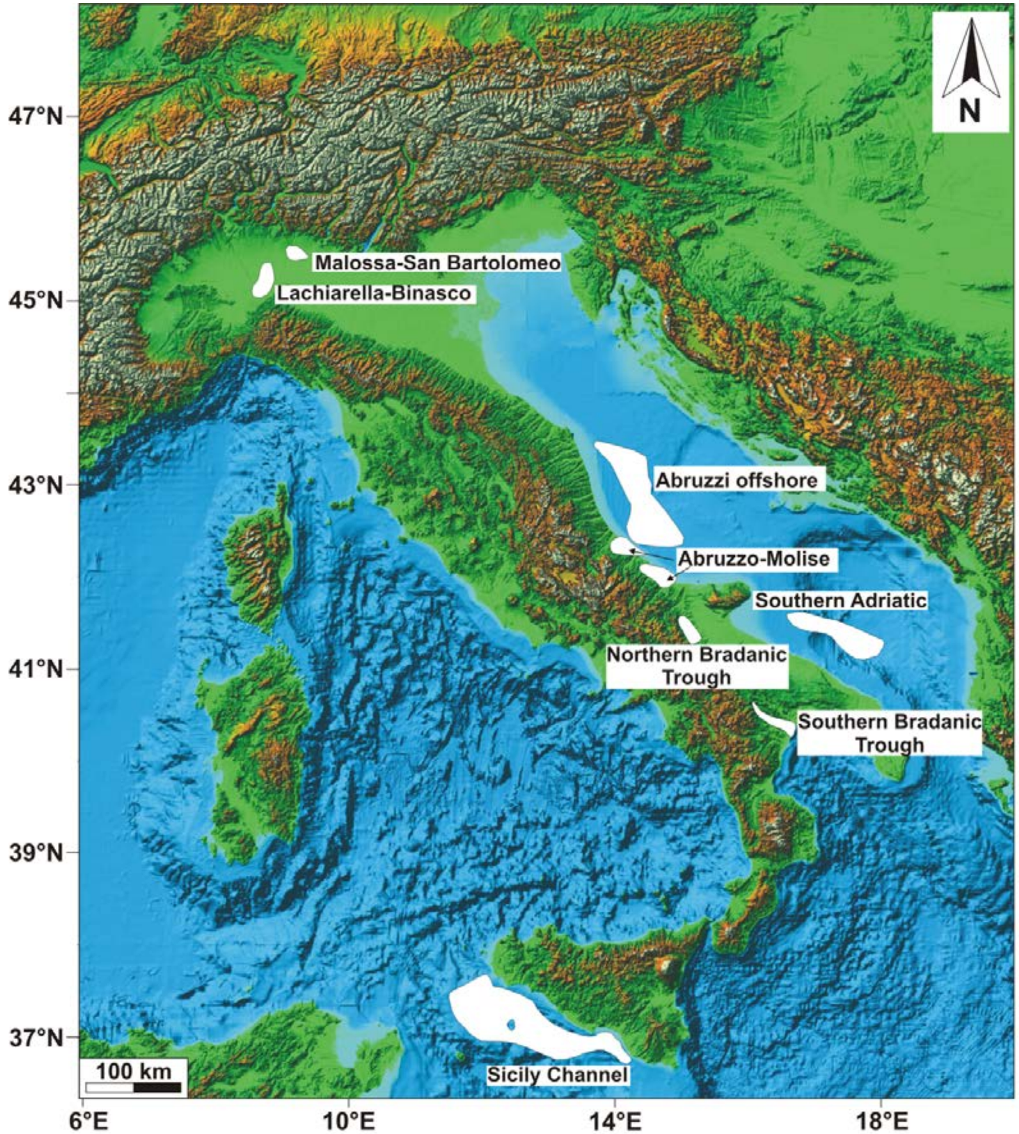
"EMILIA MARE"







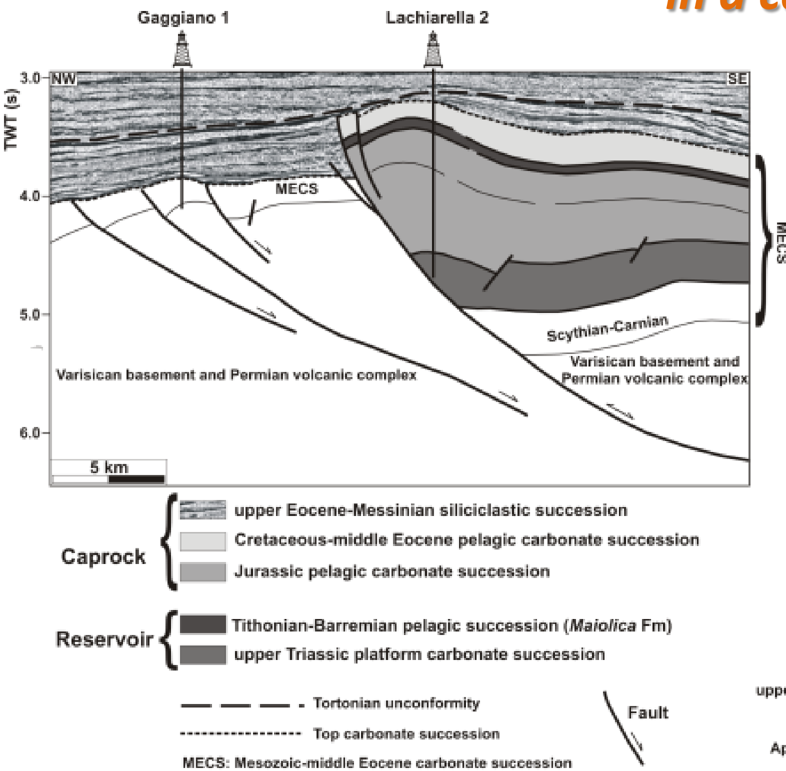
Donda et al., 2011

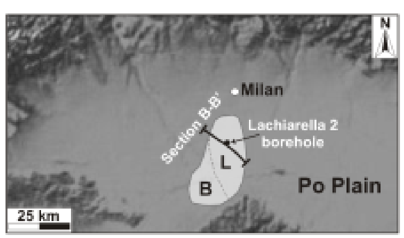


Potential areas suitable for CO_2 geological storage in carbonate formations

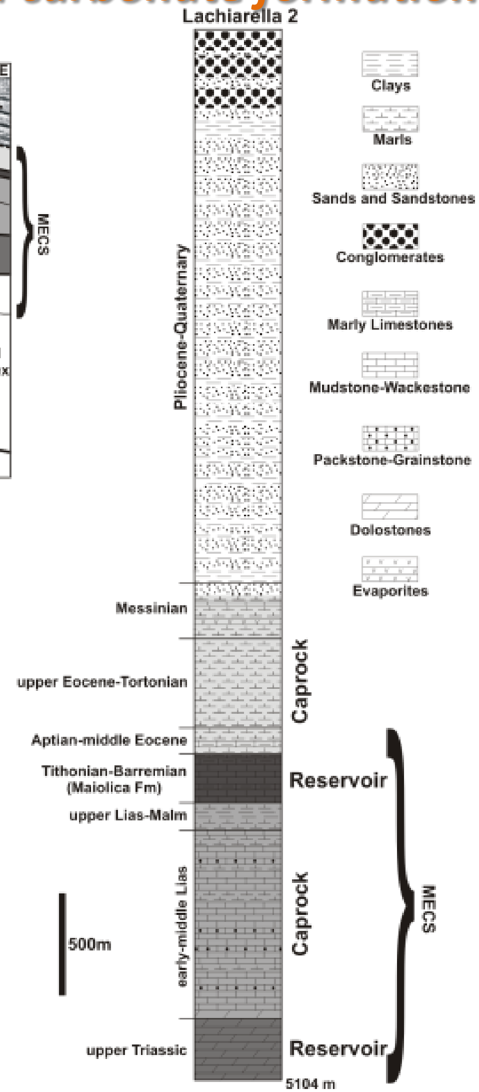
Civile et al., 2013

Example of a potential area suitable for CO_2 geological storage in a carbonate formation





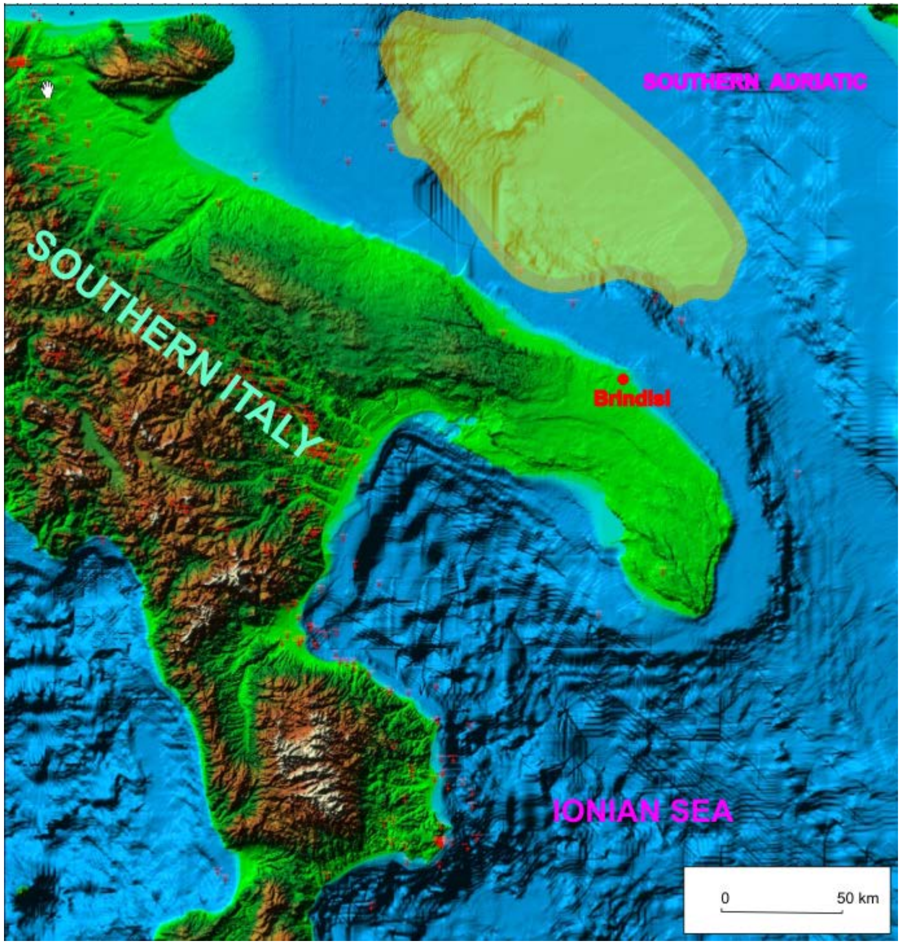
B: Binasco subzone
L: Lachiarella subzone



"Lachiarella–Binasco"

Civile et al., 2013

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOUTHERN ADRIATIC SITE OPTIONS



Storage options

- Saline aquifer/structural trap

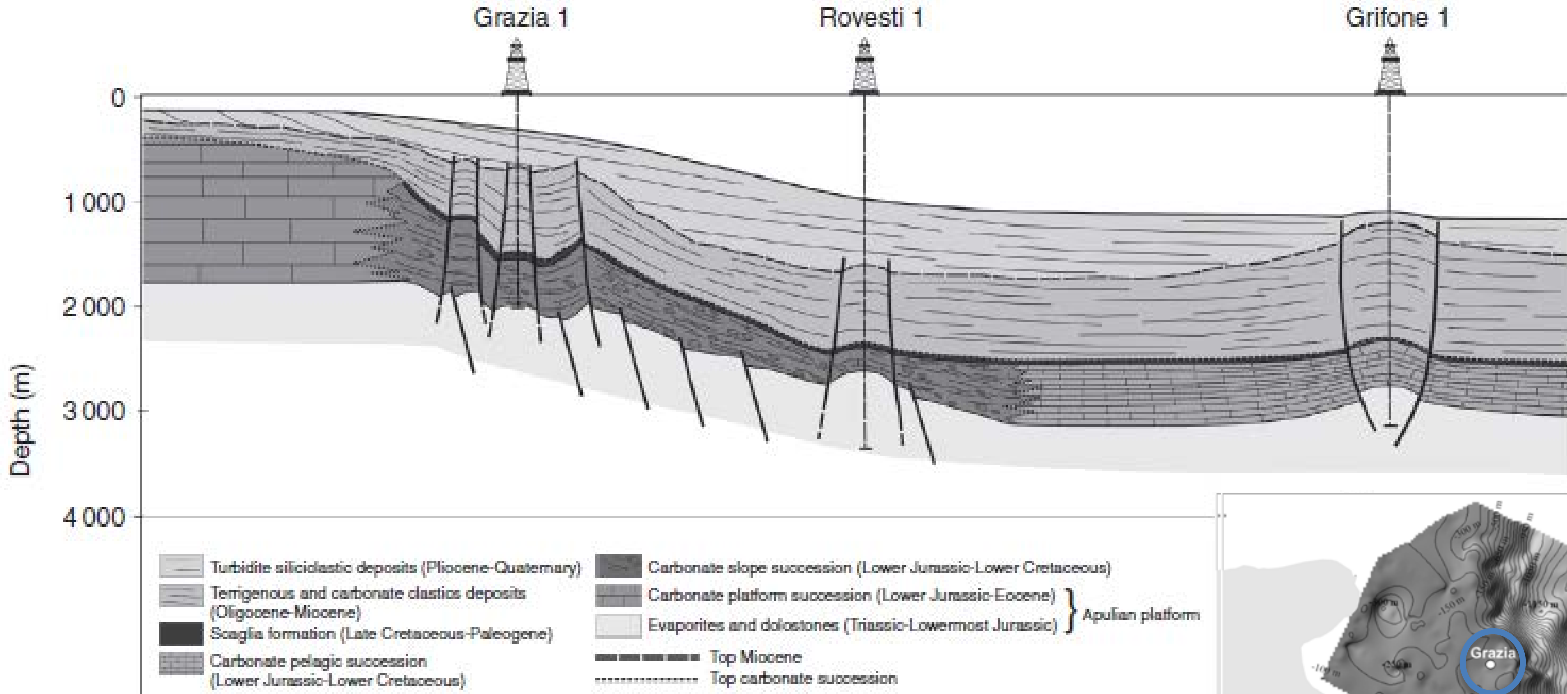
Location

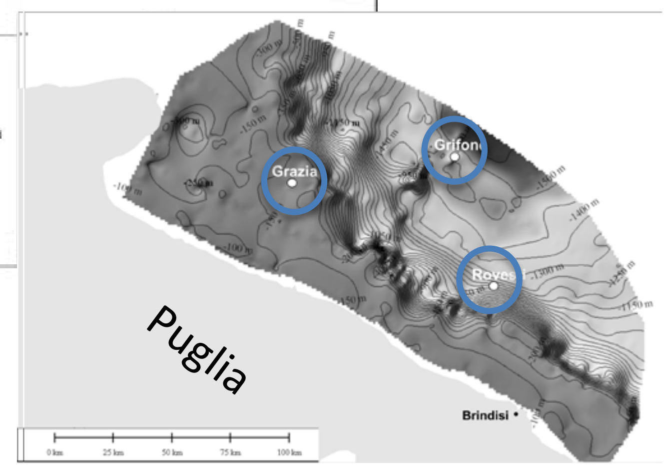
- Off shore

Lithology

- Carbonate reservoir

STORAGE SITE IN THE SOUTH ADRIATIC OFFSHORE

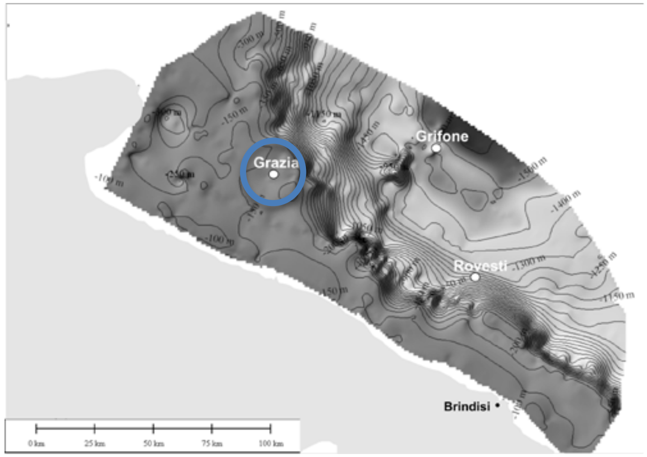


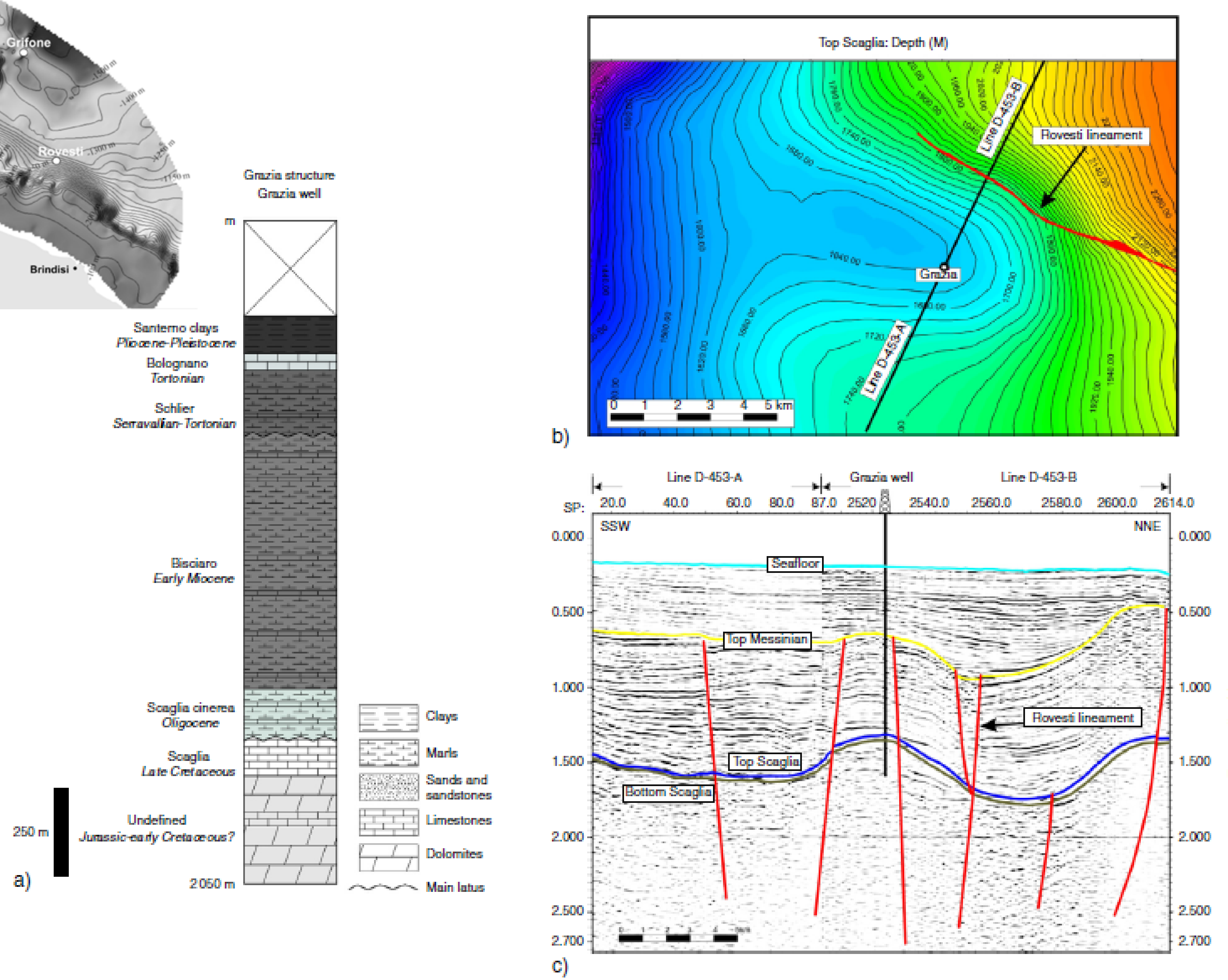


Name	Storage type	Area E+6 (M^6)	Bulk Volume E+6 (M^6)	Porosity (Scaglia)
Rovesti	Oil and Gas reservoir	1.7	195	13 -15 %
Grifone	Saline aquifer	1.0	191	10 – 20%
Grazia	Saline aquifer	1.3	241	2 - 13 %

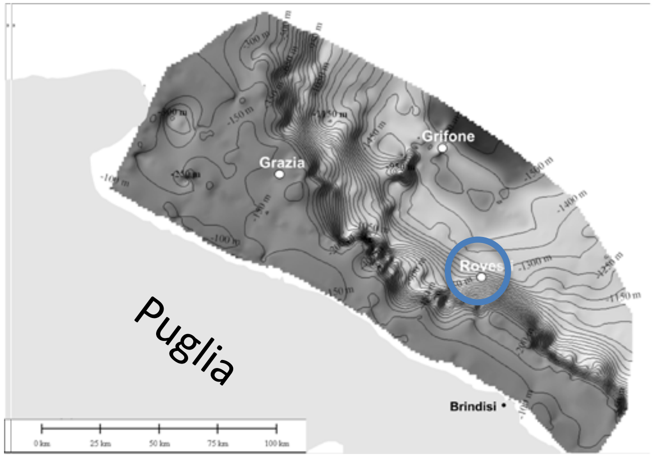
Volpi et al., 2014. Southern Adriatic Sea as a potential area for CO2 geological storage. Oil and Gas Science and Technology, IFP Energies nouvelles; DOI: 10.2516/ogst/2014039

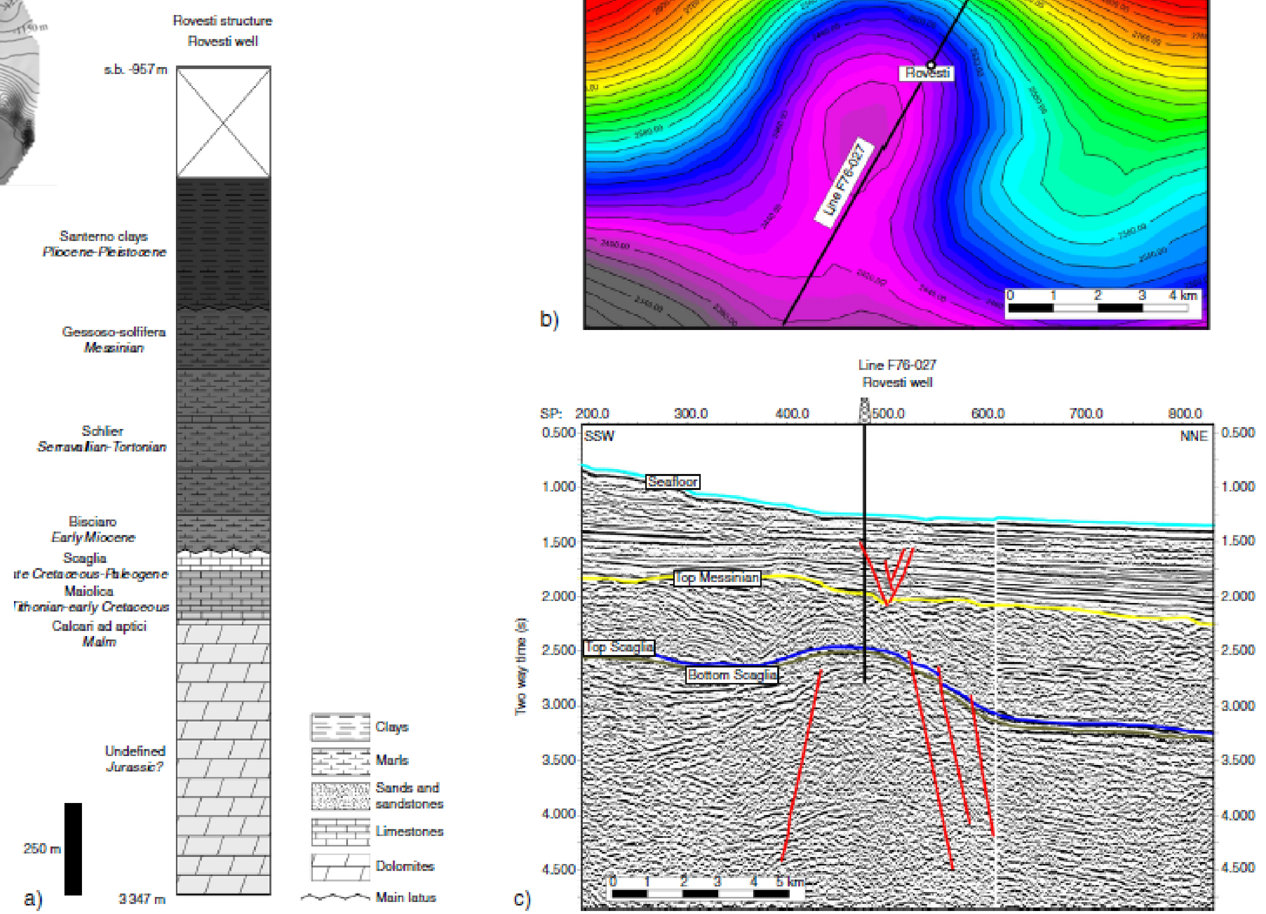
GRAZIA STRUCTURE



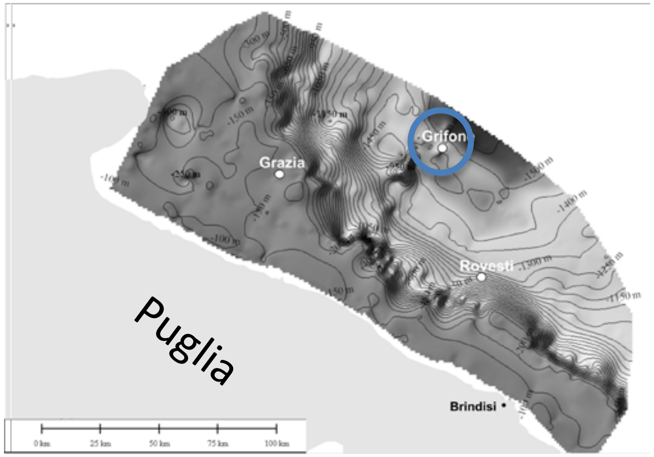


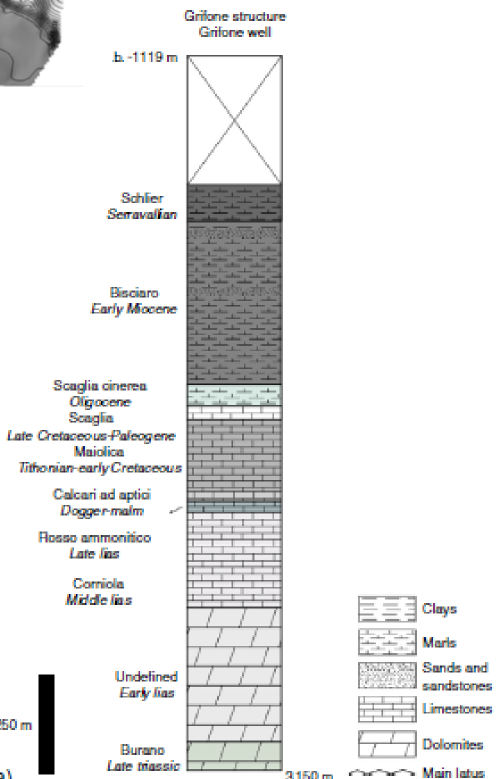
ROVESTI STRUCTURE





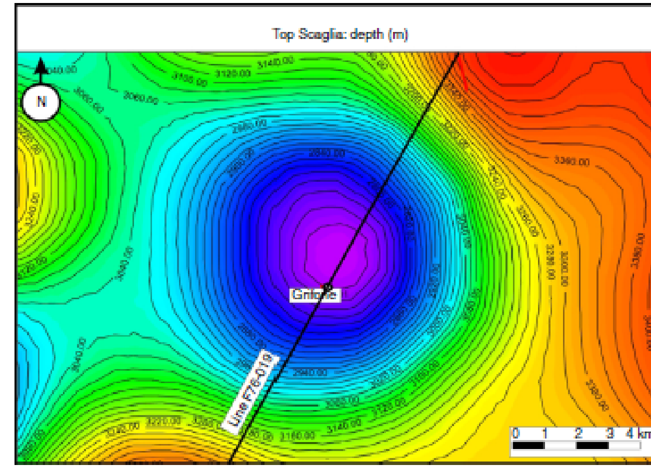
GRIFONE STRUCTURE



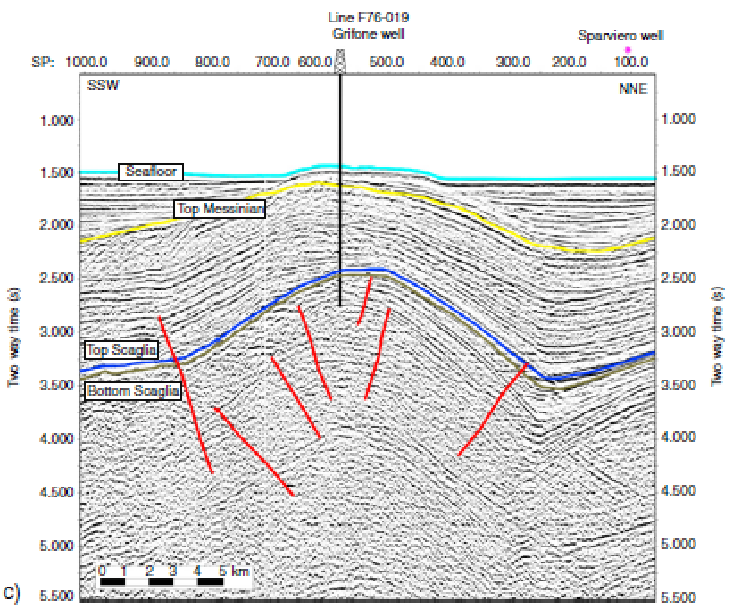


a)

b)



c)

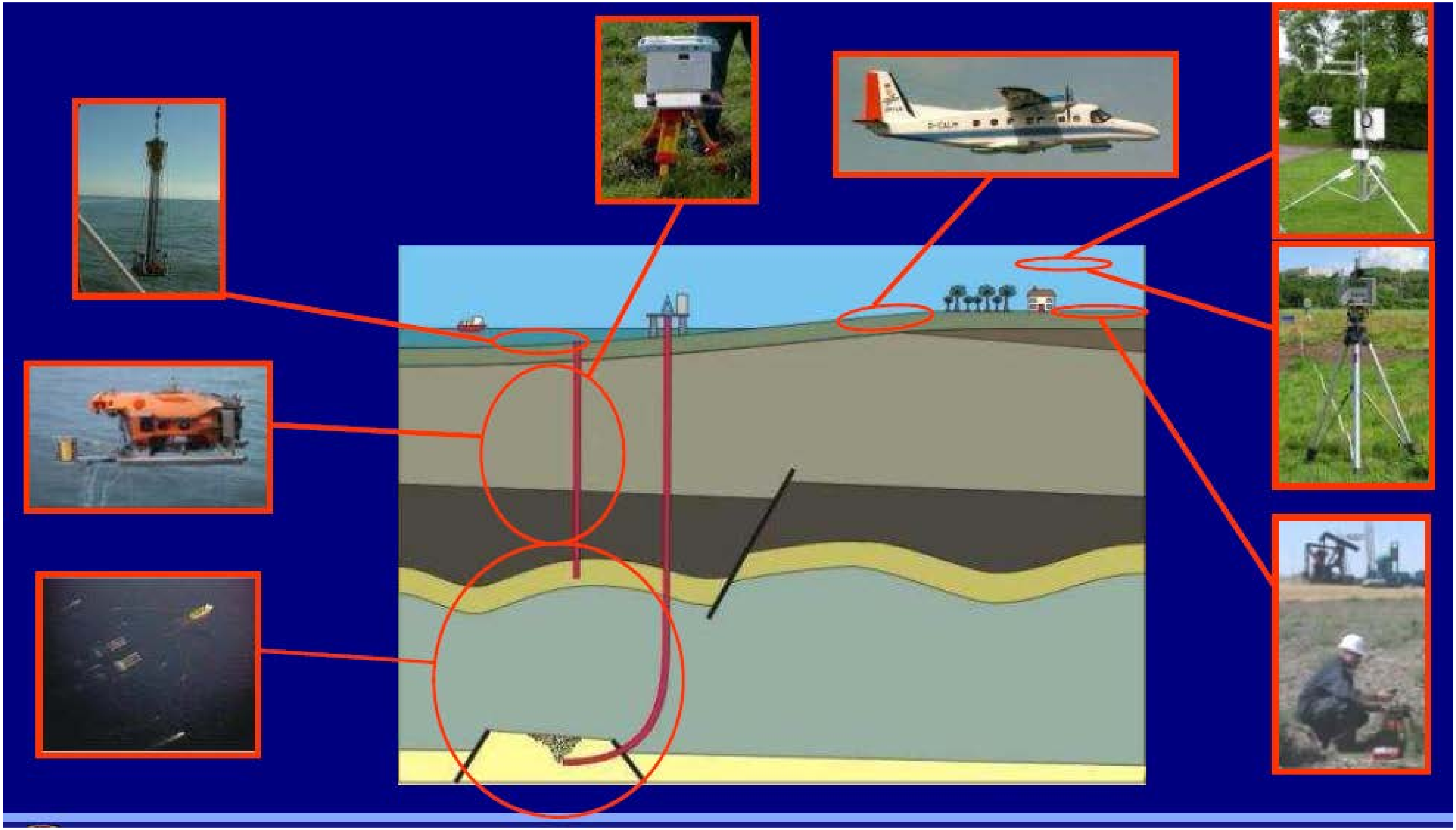


Monitoring of the selected sites

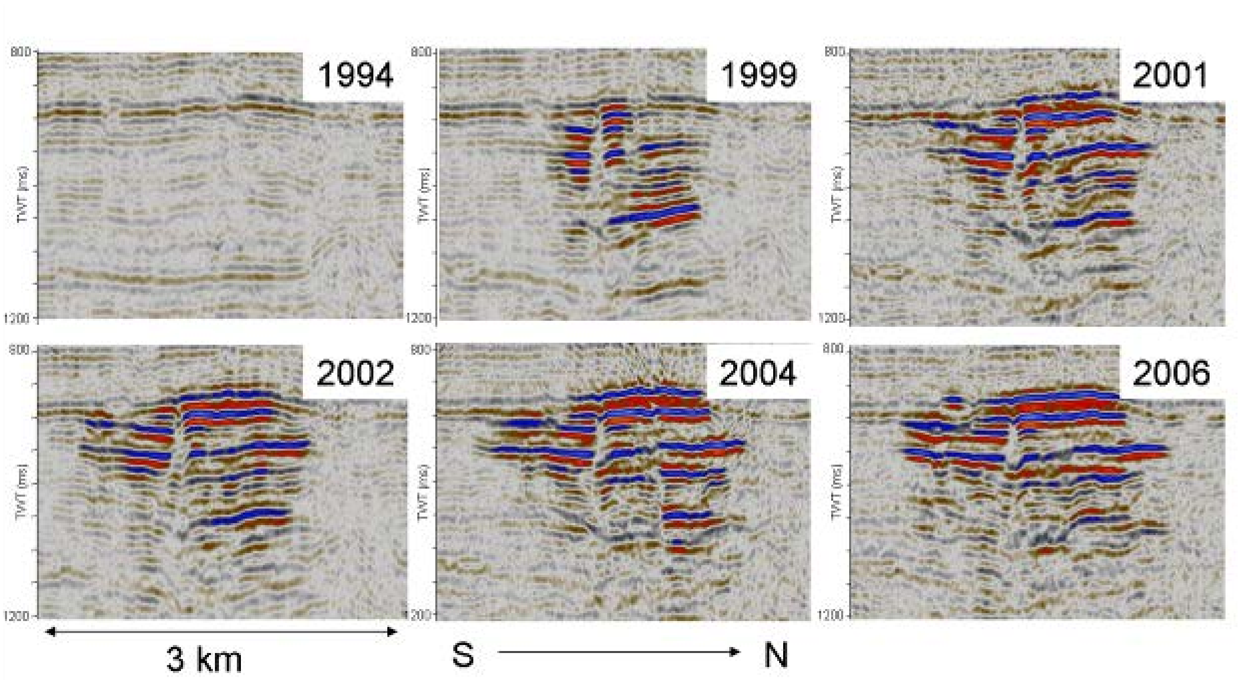
Monitoring is required in order to see whether:

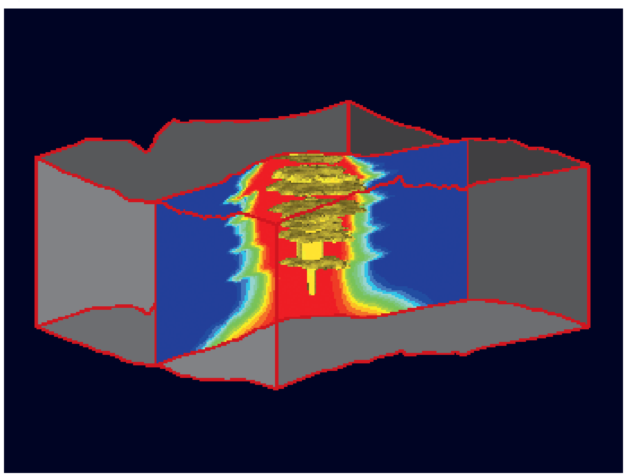
- stored CO_2 behaves as expected
- migration or leakage occurs
- identified leakage damages environment or human health

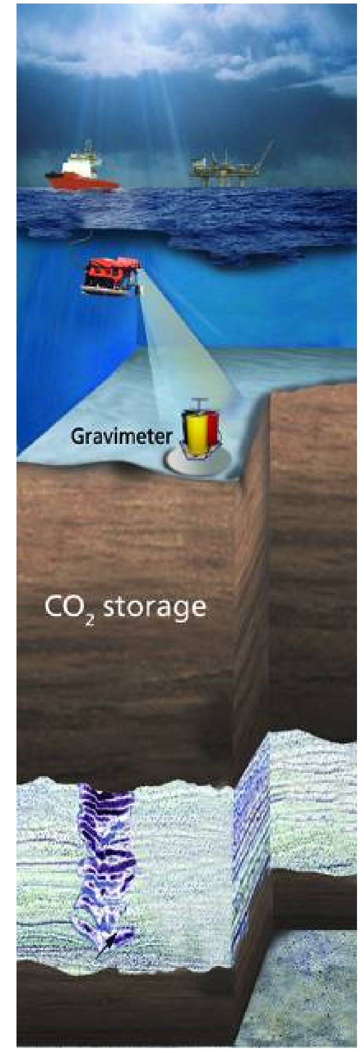
Monitoring of storage site



IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING OF CO_2 BEHAVIOUR AFTER INJECTION







Courtesy Statoil/CO2STORE project

CCS situation

In 2017, global CO_2 emissions from final combustion were ~33 Gton, more than double the rate of early 70s and increased of 40% from 2000.

18 active plants

5 under construction

20 final stage

2018 : 30 Mtons of CO2 were confined
2019: 41 Mtons expected

CO_2 GLOBAL EMISSIONS

US ~ 6 Gtons (22 %)
CHINA ~ 5 Gtons (18 %)
EU ~ 4 Gtons (1,7 %)

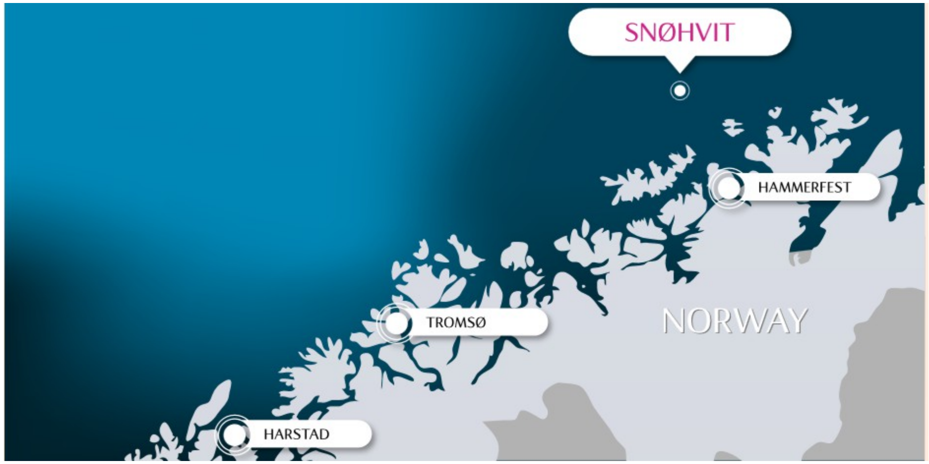
Italy ~ 427 Mtons

OPERATIONAL CCS PROJECTS IN EUROPE

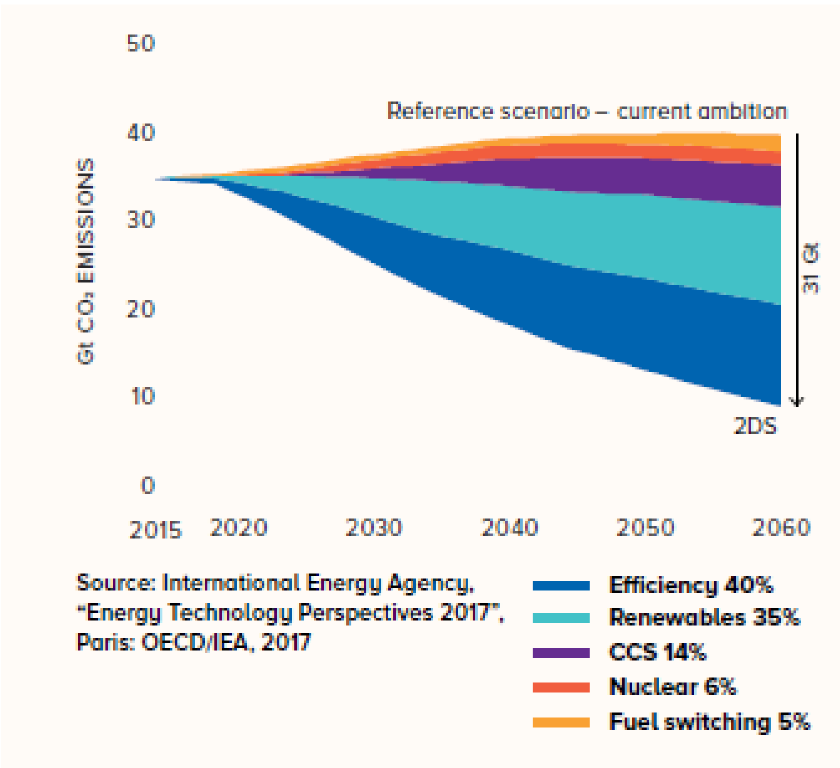
SLEIPNER

Approx. 1 Mton/year and over 17 Mtons of CO_2 injected from inception (1996)

SNØHVIT



Approx. 700 Mtons of CO_2 injected from inception (2008)



CCS IS CRITICAL to achieve the limit average global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial times, with the aspiration of limiting warming to 1.5°C (Paris Agreement, December 2015)